



Since birth, the “cursed mark” fearfully known as the Crest was branded on Darius’s right hand. As the fears revolving around the Crest grew out of control, a mysterious power suddenly activated within the young boy - resulting in the loss of his childhood friend, Sharline. From then on, he honed his swordplay in hopes of becoming one of the legendary “Four Swordsmen of Solta,” all for the day he could exact his revenge.

Heeding the government’s desire for control, Darius headed towards the Billiana Forest, where its sacred trees of creation are worshipped by the village of Morea. But there, Darius’s Crest activates once more...

When he awoke, he found himself in the “Lost Empire of Rieubane,” a land that was said to have had a burning force to unify the continent... Before it disappeared without a trace, 100 years ago.

Just what in the world is going on?

Chasing after the mysteries of the Crest and of the Billiana Trees, Darius and Sharline become embroiled in a grand journey that spans the creation and destruction of the world.

The whole story of the popular PS2 RPG, finally realized in novelization!

EVERGRACE

Hello!

This is a nicely more organized doc of my unofficial English translation for the Evergrace novelization, written by Kaeko Shimomura. And Evergrace is a game developed by Fromsoftware for the PS2 and released in the year 2000!

The above was the novel's blurb. And for some reason I also have this longer description that I wrote myself below of our two protagonists, more in the way of the game's description.

A young swordsman named Darius finds himself awakened in the Rieubane Empire, a kingdom so long gone it was thought to be a fairytale. Before him appears a bird-like creature - the enigmatic and at times bratty Krisalis. Darius seeks to escape this dangerous world with Krisalis's help, but with the Crest branded on his right hand always bringing him misfortune since his childhood, will he survive to see the outside ever again?

A young hunter named Sharline finds herself awakened in the Rieubane Empire, a kingdom so long gone she used to tell its story as a fairytale. She is rescued by Sienna, a kind woman who is soon taken away by a mysterious sorcerer, leaving behind only one mysterious word - Crest. Sharline seeks to find Sienna, but with regrets from her own world lingering on her back, can she rescue Sienna and make it back outside?

Despite being able to play as two different characters in Evergrace, their storylines do not intersect - JJJJJJJJJJJJ KKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKK OF COURSE IT DOES
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA AHHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHA

It was poorly received by critics and is more or less considered a stepping stone or weird cousin to the company's more modern offerings. However, it still got itself a prequel, a light novel, and the novelization I speak of right now.

In my opinion, you should play Evergrace, listen to it, feel the weirdness, beat the game 100%, and then come back...

So then you can take everything you know about Evergrace's story and throw it away to the wind.

Originally posted on my Tumblr under the tag #evergrace novel funtime, these translations started off very roughly in point blank form, then turned into a whole on page for page translation near the end.... It was a labor of love, but it was also suited to my whims so it will be rough in spots.

To be clear, the point blank form means the first few chapters are quite rough and spotty and totally casual as hell.

I have improved on these chapters from their Tumblr counterpart by a significant amount, but if you want...

I will retranslate them page by page if you pay me in the form of Evergrace fanart.

lol.

but actually i will



In this doc, there will be slightly adjusted wordings or corrected errors I had made before. So this means there may be translator notes here and there for clarity or for just dumb comments I make or whatever not to mention the original comments I made in the tumblr version. Sorry.

These translations are assisted with Jisho, Google Translate, DeepL, and my two semesters of high school Japanese. Characters and locations are referred to by their localized English names where possible - because there are novel-only characters whose names I just loosely translated by going off Fromsoftware's naming schemes. Nihongo ga yoku wakaranai.

Also, the book does not have illustrations (save for the inner title as scanned above, and the book jacket), but as an artist I added in illustrations and doodles here and there. These are kept in their original format in this document.

Like I said before, this was a labor of love, so please enjoy these translations and this deeper retelling of Evergrace! I even made a funny little trailer to commemorate the completion of the translations, which you can check out riiiiight here....

▶ Evergrace Novel Translations - The Trailer

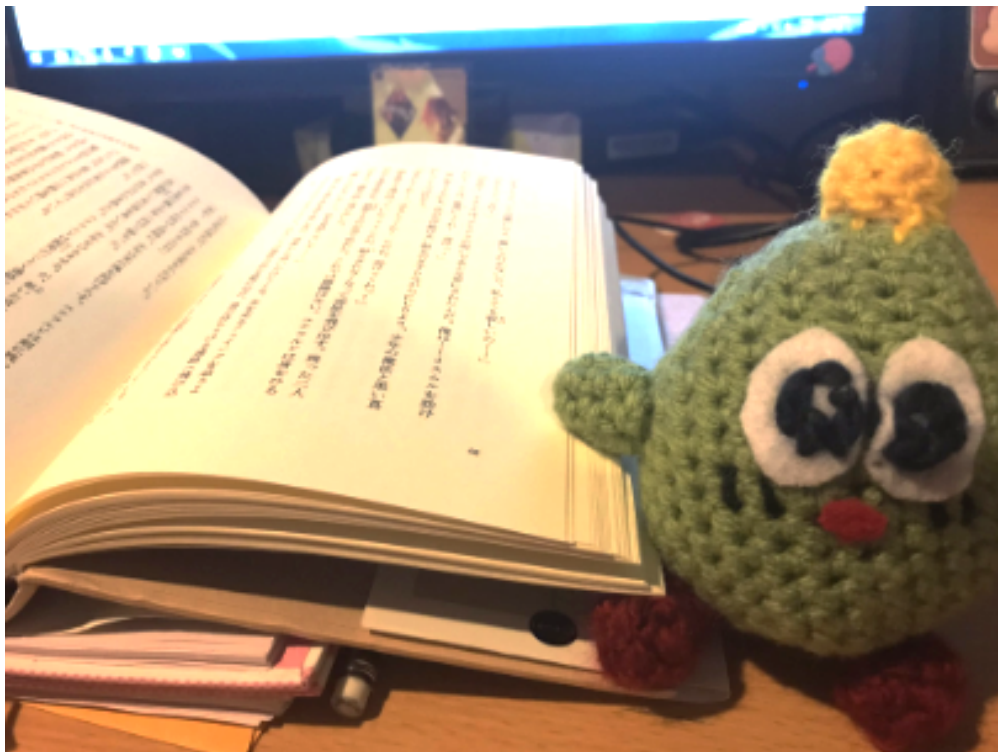
All in all, I'd love to know your thoughts on this 21-year-old-and-counting story, so please feel free to contact me on [Tumblr](#) or [Twitter](#). Hell, you could even leave a comment on the linked video above and I'll probably read it!!

Also, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the novel before you dive into it - it can go into some difficult themes and topics, or also perhaps something specific that you'd like a heads up on.

Thanks goes out to many people who were here with me along the way, and helped me word certain passages of these translations.

Jack Winterbro, Himeko, Saria, Alex, Erika, Mari, Stephen, Andy, Zultry, PressRToZeus, and IF I MISSED ANYONE PLEASE TELL ME, BECAUSE TRANSLATION IS HARD AND I APPRECIATE EVERYONE WHO HELPED ME FIND WORDS

Thanks also to my Yumetarou Gimmick! plush that helped me hold the book up at times when I could not do it myself.



And to all the Evergrace fans I've met this last year, and to all the Lost Kingdoms fans I've met these two years, too! Really, all you old Fromsoftware fans got me here, for letting me know I'm not alone... Thank you all for supporting me!!!

To Kadokawa for destroying Kemono Friends for my friends, this is my revenge.

Dedicated in memory to a dear relative who helped me realize that family need not be blood related. (Funny enough, Evergrace kinda helped me through those strange, rough times.)

And remember, Defeat Your Fears To Achieve Grace.

[Link to content warnings](#)

[Link to differences between game EG and novel EG \[spoilers!\]](#)

[Page of characters](#)

[Table of contents \(with chapter links\)](#)

General content warnings

Instead of ESRB, PEGI, CERO, all those things, we have this page!

Of course, these are all spoilers in a way or another, but that's how it is.

- Thoughts of self harm, legit self harm, and attempted suicide
- might not fit the above categories just right, but also fatal self-sacrifice
- Definitely something akin to PTSD flashbacks. Also very much violent.
- Military ecoterrorism
- Violence and painful sensations. there's some blood and of course lots of fighting
- like, yknow, body and plant horror
- Choking might warrant a warning in and of itself.
- there actually isn't pedophilia in the novel, but my translator notes occasionally refer to it because there is the game
- i take that back child marriages at 9 is kinda that
- i mean honestly, lots of children being manipulated for the use of adults
- the kind of incest that you know, is normal for royalty. never said outright but i had vibes personally
- Death and killings of course loved ones, monsters, cute creatures, family and friends, children and elderly alike!
- in fact there are scenes near the end of the novel where a lot of death and tragedy happens in a short period of time
- red breeze is just a whole indigenous stereotype. man you deserved better

man that was a list that I'm sure isn't complete. i will say it again, **please feel free to contact me if you need more details before going into the novel, or if there's a certain kind of content you are looking out for.** These are just basic warnings!

Page of characters

The English localized names are used in this translation, but the officially romanized Japanese names are listed here in italics where possible.. Just for fun. Characters with asterisks are novel-only, and thus do not have official English names. Their names have been translated in a similar style of the Japanese romanizations... I tried to at least. Images sourced from the Evergrace manual scans, official wallpapers, and Evergrace Wiki.



[Darius - *Yuterald*]

The main character. Because of the cursed mark on his right hand, the "Crest," he has been ostracized since childhood. As one of the "Four Swordsmen of Solta," he heads to the "Billiana Forest" in order to forcibly control the people of Morea, but ends up in the Lost Empire of Rieubane where his adventure starts...

[Sharline - *Shalami*]

Darius's childhood friend. During an incident in Darius's childhood, she rushed in as the powers of his Crest activated, and disappeared into thin air.



[Felkin - *Felk*]

[Saris - *Alftaein*]

[Ruyan - *Ryana*]

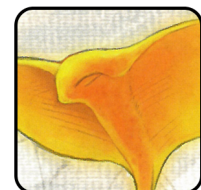
< The Four Swordsmen of Solta >



From the alliance of the four villages, a group of warriors with excellent proficiency in swordplay was chosen. It consists of Felkin, Saris, Ruyan, and Darius.

[Krisalis - *Folim*]

A mysterious creature that Darius ran into as he was thrown into the Lost Empire of Rieubane. No matter where, she always has something oddly knowledgeable to say about the empire.



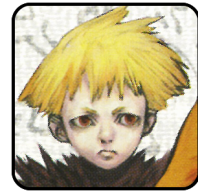
[Sienna - *Siena*]

A woman who came to the aid of the time-and-space travelling Sharline. She is being held prisoner by Morpheus.



[Trandin]

A young boy who bears the AI Crest, a manmade copy of the Crest. He appears to have been turned into one of Morpheus's pawns.



[Orladin]

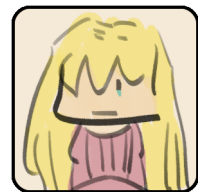
The nephew of Naphato the Third. In order to solve the calamity that has befallen Rieubane, he journeys with Darius and heads towards the Tower in order to defeat Morpheus.



[Lisumur*]

The princess of the Lost Empire of Rieubane.

[she doesn't have a profile picture so i'm giving her rights]



[Naphato the Third]

The last king that the Lost Empire of Rieubane would ever have. Using the power of Palmira infused weaponry, he was on the brink of unifying the continent, but then...



[Morpheus - *Bagragera*]

A scientist who, in the pursuit to unlock the secrets that humans held, researched the Crest and Palmira Armaments.



[Priestess Merida]

A priestess who resides in the Lost Empire of Rieubane. Though her actions and words are equally mysterious, she guides Darius's path on where to go next.



[Medina]

Morpheus's granddaughter. She is able to survive on account of the AI Crest that gives her life.



[Red Breeze]

A legendary man said to have been the strongest warrior in all of Rieubane. He, too, has the Crest.



[but that's not all! click here for more spoiler-y characters who didn't actually get a bio!](#)
[and if you wanna know the ages of most characters, check the wiki out and also this page.](#)

A note on personal pronouns, honourifics and suffixes:

In Japanese, there are a myriad of ways to refer to oneself and to others - and the nuance is quite difficult to catch in translation. Not only that, but there's ways of talking that you just can't ever translate 1 to 1 into English! And with the novelization and Japanese version of Evergrace, that is no exception.

You may want to refer to the novel scans or a Japanese copy of EG to see how each character refers to themselves (and there's a few differences between novel and game on top of THAT), but here's a quick note off the top of my head.

- Darius uses the typical ore, which is a bit of a rough and brash pronoun. In childhood, he uses boku, which is like a softer version, popular with children. Oddly, in the Japanese version of Evergrace, he also uses ore but it is in katakana...
- Sharline uses watashi, a very straightforward pronoun. Interestingly, in the world of Evergrace, there really aren't a lot of honourifics being thrown around. Sharline is one of the only people who use it and has it used on her - she calls Sienna with a -san suffix, and in one moment, Sharline herself gets to be called Sharline-san (or, "Miss Sharline" as I put it).
 - She's also called onee-chan and onee-san in the game. Because she is one.
 - Lastly, she occasionally puts "wa" at the end of sentences. It may sound like a soft sentence suffix, but don't let that fool you - it's lively, too!
- Felk's speech is very rough - he also uses ore, and not only that, he uses more zo's and shortform slang than anyone else! Darius also uses "zo," it's a rough sentence suffix that you might shout out in a command or with excitement.
- Ruyan..... SORRY I COULDN'T TELL BUT I WILL SAY THIS, HE TALKS PRETTY NORMALLY AND OFTEN USES DESHO AND FORMAL TALK
- Krisalis uses boku. It may be commonly thought of as a boy's pronoun, and Japanese learning sites might tell you so, but with pronouns in many parts of the world. it is like a smoothie bowl.
- Orladin, interestingly enough, uses omae for the guys and kimi for the girls... I think. Kimi, as you know, is quite an informal pronoun...
- There are also uses of ware and wareware, which are quite old-timey and high ranking ways to refer to oneself.
- And there's also onore, a pronoun that is used in the novel to refer to others. It seems to be a bit old-timey...? Definitely rude. Like an old omae.

A lot of these things are very fun to search out, and will give you a better understanding of how the characters see themselves, want to be seen, and how they see others. And this is by no means an exhaustive list. Check it out and read the novel yourself!

Game VS Novel Evergrace

A very casual comparison by yours truly.

The plot progression:

You know how in Evergrace game, you can choose to play as Darius or Sharline, switch throughout the game, and then complete both to see the final story?

Well... It's a book. you really can't do that. Instead, things start to change from Rieubane Castle, and paths are melded together and changed to fit a linear timeline.

So how in the game it was:

Darius - Salamad Hill, Shitty fucking royal caverns, Rieubane Castle, Royal Shrine, Salamad Hill again, Ice Caverns, Colosseum, Abandoned Road, Tower, Morpheus's Lab

Sharline - Salamad Hill, Human Research Lab, Human FUCKING Research Lab AGAIN, Abandoned Road, Tower, Morpheus's Lab

Then the two meet for the ending and all... It's more like this in the novel.

Darius and Sharline in Solta, timeskip, Darius and Felkin and Ruyan in the Billiana Forest, Darius and Krisalis in Rieubane, Salamad Hill, Royal Caverns, Rieubane Castle, bring in Orladin and soldiers, Royal Shrine, Shop for like a paragraph, back to Rieubane Castle, Coliseum, Sharline is back, Ice Caverns then Human Research Lab, Sharline is no longer back, Abandoned Road, Darius solo at Shadow Tower, Tower with Medina and Orladin, meeting with Ralbadora, Morpheus's lab with Orladin and Ralbadora, reunite with Sharline, Sienna, Trandin, Lisumur, Darius takes a nap to go to a vision with the Mother of All Things, back to Lab where Sienna and Trandin destroy everything in Rieubane, Ralbadora and Sharline taken back to Fontraile, Darius mercy kills everyone you love, he goes back, All three reunite at Billiana Forest, Darius and Sharline go back with Felkin and Ruyan, then the sibs are thrown out of Fontraile government, take residence at Rieubane ruins, make a nice village in a year, an invasion attempt happens once or twice but Ruyan and Felk stop it, thrown into jail for that but bailed out by the anger of Fontraile's citizens so all is well, Darius sets off for journey, Sharline intercepts him and they go off together instead :)

.....That's the whole novel in a breath dear god.

The gameplay elements:

Shop, Crystals, palmira armaments and actions, type matchups, the moonlight sword, life extract, some shitty puzzles.... am i missing anything?

These are all mentioned in passing some way or another, although three are given a very big boost in importance. You like seeing Darius shout UWA while firing fireballs or something well, you've come to the right place. Life extracts are pretty big in this, too.

But ohhhhh man, the Moonlight Sword. Oh man. Just a powerful sword you get after defeating Demon Darius, right? NO OH MAN. THE POWERS THIS SWORD HAS. THIS

SHIT EXISTS BEYOND TIME AND SPACE AND WELL, OF COURSE! A sword so powerful it can help restore the Billiana Forest, send people through time and space just as well as the Crest, and also take on other abilities to really make its power awesome. Glowing blue, blue-white, even golden in Darius's hands, hoo boy. This is one OP version of the Moonlight Sword. Definitely one of the most plot-relevant versions of it in all the Fromsoftware iterations I've heard of.

It's still found at the Shadow Tower and all, which is a nice game-novel touch. I guess it's Darius's award for moving past the "twisted feelings of atonement for Sharline" arc.

The characters:

Here.



Just kidding. It's actually a lot, even making a character graph like this just doesn't cut it. But I would say, everyone gets a big upgrade! Motivations and feelings are real. The biggest one would have to be Medina, personally. She's lovely in the novel ;-; Trandin, also ;;;-;;;

Alayna needs a section for the protags or else:

This is 100 fucking percent a book you should pick up if you ever thought to yourself:

“Man, who the fuck are these two and what even is their deal? Darius killed Sharline, but then... What? Why is this never brought up again? This manual sure says they’re friends, but the ending of Evergrace says like nothing.”

Great news, you’ll know more about them than you ever thought possible by the time you’re done with this book. Just look at this glowing review!



はるあめ

★★★★★ **The relationship between Shar Ami and Uterald is great.**

Reviewed in Japan on April 1, 2017

Verified Purchase

I'm impressed just by seeing the interaction between Yuterardo and Sharami in childhood. The expression is good. I can cry

Helpful

| Report abuse

Translated from Japanese by Amazon

[See original](#) · [Report translation](#)

That translation fucking sucks so lemme just freeball it:

“I was moved just by seeing Darius and Sharline’s shared childhood moments. The expressions were good, mhm... Good enough to cry at.”

The other reviews on Amazon Japan all mention them too lol

Of all the elements in Evergrace that needed a proper bump to it, to reify the previews that promised [intertwining paths and fighting together](#), to the promotional art that had them standing side by side all cool, and for the “WHEN THEY MEET THE STORY WILL REACH ITS CLIMAX” promise to just end up being “hey you can choose between em in the final boss where they’re finally together at the same time” and nothing else, well.....

Evergrace novel solves it all! You get it, Sharline’s earnest promise from childhood to protect the little baby Darius, her regrets and brave smiles that keep her pressing forward in the goal to save Sienna and Trandin, to her brash stubbornness to stay in a burning forest against Ruyan’s concerns... Then we go over to Darius, and his sobs and painful childhood memories, yet remembering how the first person who gave him a hug outside of family was Big Sis Sharline, and his whole arc of twisted atonement and sense of distance (age, misfortune, whatever) over seeing her again, and the whole nice character arc where Darius trusts in his friends and shit but also HEGETSETjklssdfjkl

There’s a lot to write about Darius, I guess.

But, importantly, there is much that ties them together for some very touching moments of the story. I can’t even remember all of them off the top of my head, but you will see throughout this novel that I paid a deep level of attention to those scenes. They all paint a picture that perhaps, Kaeko Shimomura would run away at answering, but I Will Answer It in my humblest opinion as Evergrace novel translator and lore analyzer.

sips from my tea

ah no wait i need

sips a shot of soju

Despite the years that have made Darius a whole lot older than Sharline, and the fact that Sharline has missed 13 years of his life, their bond is one that has aced the test of time, the test of twisted feelings and regrets, the test of political strife and a year of manual toil and camping in a shitty tent.

Oh, uh, yeah, the game never EVER explains this but basically, during the time Sharline was sent away to Rieubane, and meeting up with Darius again... It may have been a few days for her within the world, but for Darius it was 13 years. SO, IT IS A LOT THEY HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH, IMAGINE BLINKING AND SUDDENLY YOUR LITTLE BRO BECOMES AN ENTIRE ADULT MAN, THIS IS WHY SHE IS SO SURPRISED AND SAYS YOU'VE GROWN UP IN THE GAME BUT ONLY OPTIONALLY YOU CAN SEE THAT BIT

Sharline has proved time and time again that she would do anything to protect Darius, whether it be jumping in front of an axe, in front of a crowd of angry villagers, and even when Darius himself protests.... The kind of love that makes you want to stay by someone's side forever is not to be taken lightly. Darius is very doted upon, even from childhood, huh?

And of course, Darius did the whole Evergrace thing in order to save Sharline at the end, even when his heart was in turmoil, to rise from the rubble of the Coliseum, to climb the steps of the Shadow Tower, and to fight off the monsters that took her shape... They weren't her. And he realized that and pushed on. And at those key moments, for the always stoic Darius to really tell her what he truly thought, those Crowning moments of Heartwarming were the best of the best.

TO PUT IT CURTLY THE BIT IN THE LAST CHAPTER WHERE SHARLINE JUST SILENTLY LEANED IN TO REACH FOR HIS HAND AND DARIUS JUST GRABBED HERS IS VERY REPRESENTATIVE OF THEIR WHOLE RELATIONSHIP FROM THEN ON. CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WHO GET EACH OTHER WITHOUT WORDS, AND WOULD MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO MAKE SURE EACH OTHER IS SAFE, IT IS THE DARK SOULS OF FOUND FAMILY LOVE BABY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I have no idea what I just wrote. If it made sense to you, then I suppose that works. I think about them a lot, even before reading the novel, and so I'm very grateful that it confirmed that despite all the pains and tribulations, the result is Evergrace Funny Found Family moments that may go on forever and always, as Sharline says.

Prologue and Epilogue:

Kaeko Shimomura held nothing back giving Evergrace a bittersweet intro (and you could count the first chapter into that too) and an expansive ending and epilogue - that's right, both beginning and end of the novel are entirely new to the story! **YES, IT EXPANDS ON THE WEIRD OPEN ENDED ENDING OF EVERGRACE.** You're in for a ride, and it starts now...

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4. Royal Shrine, The Mother of All Things, and the blind priestess
5. Below Castle Rieubane - Calamity, Toledo, Krisalis
6. The Coliseum, and the chance reunion that surpassed time
7. Human Research Lab, the birthplace of the AI Crest
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9. Shadow Tower, a passage for souls of purification
10. A tower piercing the sky, forming the core of Billiana Fruit
11. Secret Lab, the edge of the world, and the ceiling's door
12. Billiana, Life and Death, and Rebirth

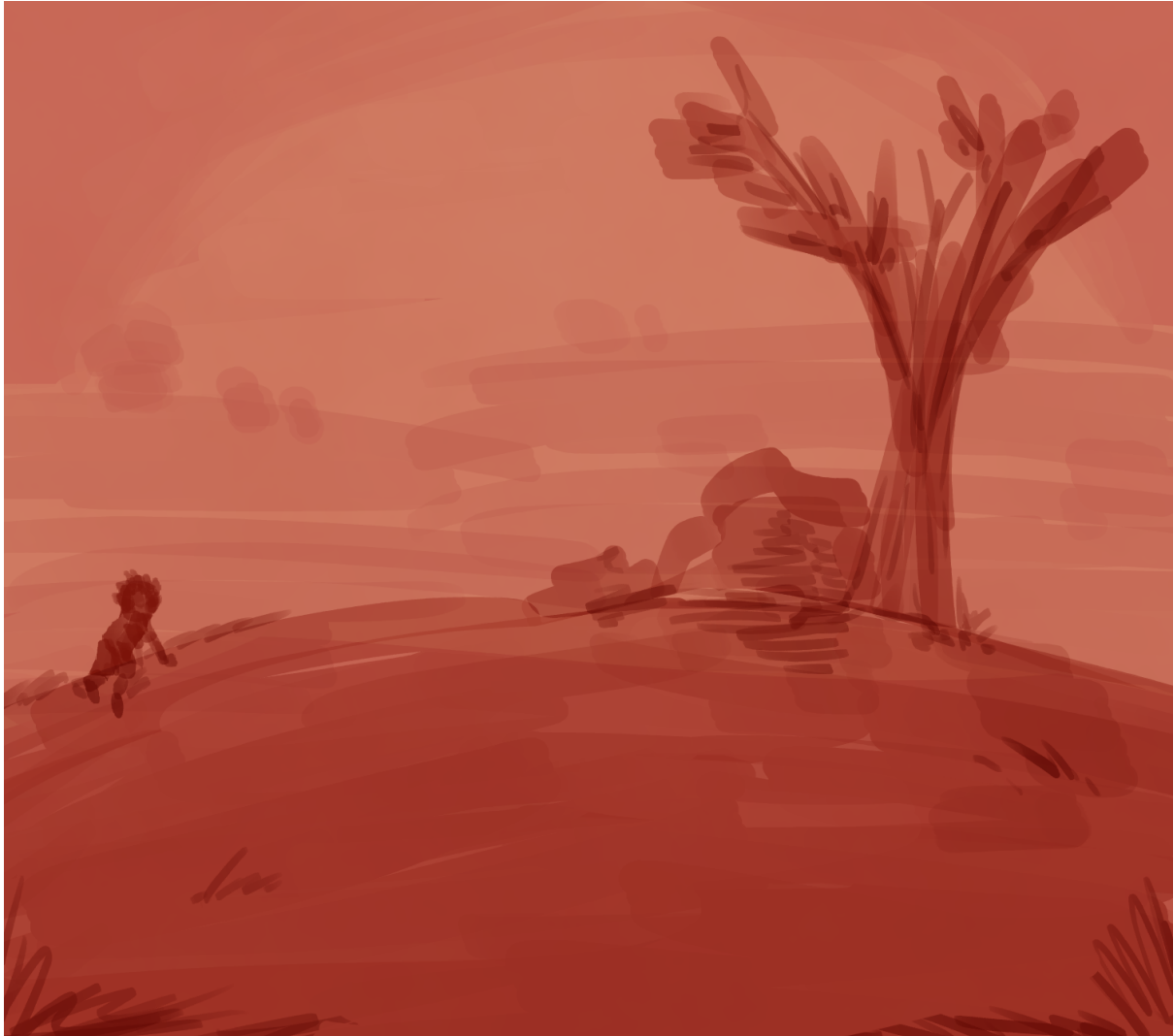
Epilogue - The Billiana Forest, and the time that approaches

Afterword

Prologue - Reminiscence

Music to play along: [📺 EG Expression 0 Bonus Track Evergrace OST](#)

Notes: Though this prologue was translated in full, it was originally presented in point form. I will be displaying both versions in that order.



A burning sunset draped the world in a red light.

A brick house, skinny trees with gangly trunks, a sparse amount of livestock herded together and the barren plain that used to keep them fed, they were all overlooked by a rocky hill.

And on that hill was the shrinking shadow of a young boy.

The boy, as if using the hill for emotional support, was rubbing at his eyes continually overflowing with tears. His soft greyish hair was mottled with mud, and so were his pants, fraying with scratched holes.

As the tears flowed, his small shoulders trembled greatly, and the boy cried out as if his throat had broken free of all restraints.

From his swollen, red eyes came tears that brushed against the back of his right hand. There was a mysterious marking on the back of his hand, clearly defined by its pattern.

He scratched at the bruise with his other hand as strong as he could, until his fingers and palms were a bright red.

But the marking would not go away.

He placed his hand palm up on the rough surface of the rocks and began to scratch against it. Gripping his right hand with all his strength, he dragged his hand across the rocks.

A different kind of pain escaped the boy's mouth through his cries, and streaks of blood appeared on the rock.

The pain made the boy flinch, but his young face was filled with hate, and he grinded his right hand against the rock with renewed effort.

"What are you doing?!"

The shadow of a person much larger falls upon the young boy.

A girl stood at the hill with hair redder than the sunset sky.

The girl ran over to the young boy, her ornate dress flapping in the wind. She took hold of the boy's bloody hand.

"You shouldn't do that kind of thing, you know!"

The boy's lips were firmly pressed shut, and he only looked up at the girl with frozen eyes. The red-haired girl crouched down beside the boy, and gave him a kind smile. She took a cloth from her waist pouch and gently wiped the mud off the boy.



"Now, why don't we go back home together? Didn't you say before that baby chicks learn to fly around this time? Let's go home, so you can show me!"

"I don't.... Want to go home. Everything would be better if I wasn't here."

The boy's shaky reply made the girl's eyes widen in surprise. From the boy's amber eyes, the tears started to flow again.

"Everyone, everyone said that someone with the Crest like me, they wished I wasn't born..."

"Now, who said something like that?"

The weight of the boy's tears almost seemed to guide his head downwards. In a muffled but bitter voice, he replied back indignantly.

"Everyone in the village said so. Because I'm here, all the crops and animals keep dying! If my father wasn't so respected, he'd be kicked out of the village by now... Because there's someone like me plaguing everyone's lives, they're always saying horrible things about my parents..."

And Sharline, because of me, you were kicked out of the hunting group, weren't you?"

An expression rose up within the girl named Sharline. Shock, anger, and sadness all mixed up on the girl's suffering face. The boy tried to shake her hand away, but she held on tightly, using her free hand to gently wipe off the mud from his head.

"You shouldn't pay a single heed to those words. Those crops are failing because the earth around here has always been bad. And those dying livestock, it's just because their caretakers didn't quite do their job, right? And, I..."

...I just couldn't go hunting because I got in a big fight with the lead hunter, that's all. Darius, you had nothing to do with that."

".....But, as long as I have this Crest, won't these horrible things just continue?"

As if the boy was weighed down by something very heavy, his shoulders drooped low - and his head sunk too.

Sharline shook her head slowly.

"That's not true, okay? Sure, plenty of things will always happen from here on out, but that's just how people are always gonna be - causing things.

What in the world can a little bruise do? Like hey, every night, Darius's spooooooky hand just sneaks out the window and dances around people's pillows, that's what they think? It's just ridiculous!"

The boy saw a smile light up across Sharline's face as she cheerfully wiped the last bits of mud from his hair.

"The next time people say those kinds of words again, let me know ASAP. The second time it happens, it won't, because I'll be beating them right up!"



“Wait, no, Sharline! If you do that, you’ll...”



“Don’t worry about it!”

Sharline cupped her hands around Darius' face, raising his head slightly upward. Through his tear-stained eyes, Darius could see an enthusiastic smile beaming at him.

"Y'know, Darius? More than anyone else in the village, I love you the most. That's why if anyone says anything bad to you, I'll always protect you. Believe in me."



[this is the line alayna vetoed right into "i love you the most," but to be honest it's more like "favourite" or cutely, "you're my number one!" but I DON'T CARE]

Darius looked up with a surprised expression as Sharline gently pressed her hands against his cheeks.

The boy, still staggering slightly, was suddenly brought so close he could feel the blood coursing through the girl's throat.

[this line is weird, I don't know how to word it properly, but hope that's okay.]

His shoulders, his back, all were wrapped up into the girl's arms, hugging him strongly.

...It's warm...

Outside of any blood relative, it was the first time he had ever been hugged.

Whatever fear the boy had within himself, it quickly diminished and replaced itself with a gentle warmth that spread from the back of his neck. With kind hands, Sharline gently stroked his back, and the voice hidden in the depths of his throat came out once more.

As if a gate had burst free, the boy cried out a new flood of tears as he was gently wrapped in the embrace of the red-haired girl.

HUMANITY RESTORED



ALAYNA'S POINT FORM VERSION, MADE A FEW DAYS AFTER HER BIRTHDAY ON OCTOBER 14TH LOL, TOOK HER AN HOUR AND A HALF APPARENTLY

- it starts off with baby darius sitting on a rock, he is crying. his hair is muddled. he's in pain probably for some crest-related ostracization reason
- sharline comes up along the hill, finds him crying and asks what's wrong
- baby darius is..... uh..... i forget. it was literally 3AM reading this
- he's sad and wishes himself to disappear. he knows that because of his crest, his parents are also hurt by the village. sharline too is hurt because of it. he's afraid of the horrible things that'll happen because of his crest one day
- sharline is like "nothing will happen! sure, the unknown fear is part of life, but that's just how it is. if there's people out there lying in bed every night in fear of your hand, that's just stupid of them"
- she flashes a gentle smile
- i think darius is a bit convinced here
- she goes on. "darius, more than anyone else in the village, i love you the most. if anyone says something to you, i will protect you. take comfort in this"
- this part is a bit wobbly. "NOW TELL ME WHO DID THIS TO YOU WHO ROUGHED YOU ALL UP BLOODY AND DIRTY LIKE THIS"
- "no sharline don't do that, you'll be...!"
- etc etc etc
- "let's go home, alright?"
- sharline gives darius a big hug
- "It's warm..."

The Crest, that accursed thing

Music to play along:  Kota Hoshino - Evergrace II [PlayStation 2, 2001] (Battle)

Notes: This was genuinely presented in a form of shitposts. After looking it over a bit, I think this chapter is important enough to warrant a bit more proper translating.

For a hundred years, this land could sustain not even one single life.

Not a blade of grass, a piece of moss, simply a stretch of land where muddy-coloured dust kicked up in the air, spanning the length of perhaps 10 small villages. If one could say anything of note, it would be the stones big and small on this barren land. In the skies above, far above, were only birds that seemed to shimmer in the heat.

This place where neither residents nor animals could be seen, however, used to be a place with a name. An empire by the name of Rieubane.

Rieubane.

An empire that could boast of its overwhelming power, its weapons, as if it was the sole commanding force on this continent of Edinbury.

Atop a small mountain was Castle Rieubane, serving as the center where the towns below were lined with beautiful cobblestone in all four corners... Or as it was said to be. In one day, this city and the villages around it all disappeared, leaving the barren land behind. All that remained were a few villages at the very borders, suddenly all on their own without the politics, the ways of life they lived by. And the very next day after the empire's disappearance, the land that was so blessed before could return only half of its planted grains, its scrawny vegetables, and a dwindling amount of livestock. Famine snatched up the lives of many.

Some villages, with more power than the others, started to attack and steal from neighboring villages, and a bitter war broke out. Still, the people were greatly weakened by hunger, and eventually the looming sense of dread brought out not more skirmishes, but rather an alliance between the villages.

The villages that came out of this alliance were Solta, Morea, Seclue, and Riklute. And from these four villages came a new name of the country, Fontraile, and a government made of representatives of each village was formed.

Even if formally recognized in documents, what alliance could remain stable in a devastated world? There immediately arose more skirmishes from those who desired profit above all, to those who could make the most out of this barren land.

And as these fights grew larger and larger, there came a scholar who theorized a certain idea:

“It is the Billiana trees that steal the energy from within the earth so that only they may grow.”

Billiana is, within the village of Morea specifically, a kind of tree worshipped as a spiritual figure. Deep within the forest, so closely guarded by the Moreans, were giant Billiana trees - considered to have been here since the earth was born, the first sign of life, the place where everything had started... As if a mother of all things.

A brilliant grey stem, trailing to a glowing, white flower, the Billiana that bloomed from the flowers had a mysterious sort of power. The Billiana, where a normal fruit would have seeds, had none. And no one had ever seen something like an old, rotting Billiana tree.

And as if its sole purpose was to populate a forest, that Billiana fruit would, in a day, grow into an entire tree.

[the translation here is actually aruhi, “one day” as in “one day this and that happened,” so idk if it’s one singular day but i think that actually might line up with lore]

And so the Moreans worshipped these mysterious trees as sacred things, each dedicating their life’s work to protecting the Billiana.

So naturally, as the ill words around the Billiana spread, so did the shock of the Moreans. They insisted that the land that the Billiana trees grew on was perfectly safe. On the other hand, Solta, the village closest to the barren lands, had kept some writings from the Lost Empire, ones that spoke of how “Billiana trees had sprouted where the empire once was, yet those trees were part of the Empire, and should have disappeared with it.” Furthermore with this suspicion, they viewed the strangely vibrant forest of Billiana trees in stark contrast with the rest of the lifeless earth.

Simply put, the trees must’ve been stealing the life around them, to feed them and only themselves.

Morea backed out of the alliance of Fontraile, and at once the two groups broke out into conflict.

Of course, the three villages that banded together had the upper hand at first, but from within Morea were a certain group of soldiers, both flexible in defense and in incredible swordsmanship. They were known as the “counteroffensives.”

Still, as the situation grew more dire, with more land being taken away from the Moreans, their only choice was to deploy these counteroffensives to assassinate the leader of the loggers over in Solta. For that, the logging of the Billiana did indeed stop, but what started was an ever-growing hatred stemming from the people of Fontraile, and even then after some years the attacks started off once more - and with more intensity.

The soldiers from Fontraile plodded through the trails to Morea, but as if in response, they were met with an even thicker, more lush forest, like an impenetrable wall.

But, Fontraile had the experience of fighting the Moreans for some 10 years now in this indecisive war. Rather than a simple, full force frontal attack, they secretly deployed four

brave soldiers, the Four Swordsmen of Solta, who had made their names known in battles won before. And so, these three soldiers - as one had left already due to disagreements - left Fontraile, that sorely disparate land, for the sake of destroying a forest like none other.

Silver blade, silver hair.

Darius swiftly dodged the oncoming sword, and in his momentum, raised his longsword up high, ready to strike when the moment came.

- strikes right in the enemy's armor, ripping it apart
- dude tries to run away, gets stabbed right smack dab in the armor's newly made gap
- this is probably a fatal blow
- man's eyes grow wide, thin breath comes out, and blood come out his mouth
- he's probably dead. that sword looked just like a key jutting out of a lock...
- ouch!

From the undergrowth, a rustling noise of footsteps... And from a shady forest of trees comes another man in black and red armor.

Red on the edge of that black armor...

The view before my eyes, a village dyed red with fire.

The house that I lived in..... red. With the flames that grew higher and higher.

My mother and father, sprawled on the floor.... red.

The axe, the one that slashed across their chests, and the man in red and black

An emotionless face like a boulder, a scar that ran across his cheek

Raising his axe one more time

The sound of flesh and bone snapping

And my father's head rolled across the ground.

And that man drew closer and closer, coming here...

“GRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHH!!”

That phantasmal nightmare quickly disappeared with the roar of the oncoming soldier. Darius readied himself, sword still stuck firmly in the lifeless man’s body.

That man covered ground, fast, and just before reaching Darius, he swung his warhammer up wide. Within the shadows of the forest, he readied himself for an opening, hidden knife at his ready.

But there was no opening. Nor a scar on the man’s face.

What met the hammer was not a knife, but a sword fumbled out just in time.

- awwwwwww shit gotta run out of here darius says
- but the man kept chasing
- buuuuuuuuuuuuuuu WHO KNOWS I HATE VIOLENCE DARIUS WINS SOMEHOW THERE’S AN ARROW AND SHIT PERHAPS IT’S...

“Darius, are you okay?!”

“Man, and here I was thinking you’d be dead running off first like that. Too bad...”

Trudging their way through the dense forests came the shadows of two people.

A young man, with long chestnut-coloured hair tied back into a ponytail, donning armor as blue as the winter skies, short bow in hand. Another, with short black hair and a lanky build, armor buffed to a dull grey, and two curved swords that reached from his back to his waist.

[i do not know why felk has black hair in this.]

The chestnut-haired man ran over to Darius, encircling him a few times as he looked him over from head to toe.

“I know those men were from the village, but you didn’t need to rush out like that. Darius, I understand how you feel, but... What would happen if you got seriously injured?”

“.....”

“Really, from what I saw, it looked like you had a death wish. At least your injuries weren’t too bad...”

Ruyan took hold of Darius’s right hand. “...It’s just this one, right?”



It must've been when he tried to stop the warhammer from swinging down - his hand crushed for a moment, and the leather and rope that wrapped around his right hand had been torn to shreds. Darius instinctively covered up the back of his hand.

The young man looked at Darius for a moment, and gave him a friendly smile.

"You don't have to hide it, you know? We're like brothers, after all."

Ruyan moved the covering hand away to get a better look at Darius's injuries.

"Ahh, yeah, this looks pretty banged up. We'll have to fix it right away - off with the wraps, please."

"....How long will it take?"

"Hmm, about 3 hours? 2 if Felk lends a hand."

"Oy, don't set me up with extra work, there!"

The black haired boy, stealing glances at the corpse earlier, quickly spun his head towards the two.

"Tsk, why'd you even think that I'd want to wipe HIS ass?! I'm not doing that!"

"Well, Darius did have to clean your behind at one time. Shouldn't you return the favor?"

"W-when did that ever happen!"

"Hmm, maybe at the battles of Latoya, when you hit your head pretty bad. Or maybe when you fell into the moats at Gurong. Or when that silver archer fired that poison tipped arrow, and..."

"Stop, stop! That's enough, you don't have to say anymore! Damn, Ruyan, you really know how to open up old scars..."

"Maybe I should add my two cents into this, too." [probably darius saying this]

"Ghhh... At least Saris isn't here to witness this."

Felkin put his head into his hands.

"...We don't have two hours to waste."

"Eh?"

Darius shook Ruyan's hand off, gripping his right hand back into place. [did he just fix his crushed hand by snapping it back into place idk but oh god]

Ruyan could only look at that bruise, now hidden away by his hands.

Those 10 years of having taken up that sword, on the back of that sturdy hand, a strange bruise it was.

Like a bizarre looking eye, or a flower from a foreign country... That kind of pattern.

Crest.

That which brands the bearer as cursed.

That, in which all who come close to the person have misfortune cast upon them. That death would soon come knocking... That's what they say.

And, like the rumors, Darius's parents and childhood friend were murdered in a violent incident, and he was forced to leave his hometown behind.

That cursed mark.

In a moment, it was all but covered up. Ruyan looked up only to see Darius standing stiffly, though quietly, the eyes that glared said all that needed to be said.

Ruyan quickly plastered a smile on his face.

“A-ah, yep, that sword of yours, it’s broken all right. We ought to go tell off that blacksmith again, huh?”

“.....”

Darius quietly worked something around the back of his right hand, away from view.

A lump of something black stretched across his hand, and he tried to tie it off one-handedly with a ratty piece of leather.

“Here, just take this for now. It won’t slip as easily, I don’t think.”

Darius and Ruyan looked up suddenly from a certain someone’s blurting. Felkin looked away awkwardly, hand outstretched with a proper piece of leather string. With the magnificent backdrop of such a sheepish pose, Ruyan tied the leather proper around Darius’s hand.

Though, the Crest stretched from the tips of his fingers to the beginnings of his wrist. It just wasn’t possible to cover it all up, but Darius sighed with relief to see it tied up to the best of his friends’ abilities.

“Oy, it’s getting brighter. That old man was onto something, seems...”

Felkin pointed into the wide swath of forest that gently swayed with the wind. Through the slopes, the sky not yet blue, if one looked as hard as they could, a weak light could certainly be seen. Darius’s face turned grave, grabbing the sword that stuck out of the corpse still, and hastily made his way into the forest.

“D-Darius?!”

“There he goes, blood must be simmering up in him again...”

“It must be... that revenge he’s always wanted for his family.”

“...So that idiot’s gonna end up rushing forward a second time, ain’t he.”

“Let’s go.”

Darius’s back disappeared deep into the forest. Ruyan and Felkin followed behind quickly.

blah blah blah morea the village near the forests, where the people have lived for a hundred or who knows how many years. even their houses are made of those branches. a very secluded village..... not seclue i mean secluded lol

the expanse of trees so thick their roots didn't even see the sun, and even..... moss and grass didn't grow? hmmm well you check that yourself. so the three bros are looking down upon the village now

"There it is, that miser of a village." Felk scowled.

"...Yet, I don't see any signs of ruin. I wonder if it'll really be okay going into the forest..." Ruyan whispered, glancing around the surroundings.

"Just look at 'em. Living all stress-free with the blessings of that life-sucking tree. What I wouldn't give to tie em up, take em outside and let them see how all other villages are starving like hell..."

"....All because of the Billiana, is what they claimed..."

"Oy, don't tell me you're saying what I think you are! Those trees are sucking up the life of everything around it, just as that big respected scholar once said.

Besides, like they say, how could those Moreans start growing Billiana when it was all meant to go away like that Rieubane? Don't get all non-believing on me now."

"What you say is true..."

Felk let out a huge sigh as the village slowly lit up in the white light of the morning sun. He pointed over to those mysterious trees, now illuminated.

"We will burn down all those trees, and take back the honor of all the previous troops who were swallowed up by this accursed forest.

...I mean, if we stopped here and ran back with our tails between our legs, we wouldn't be worthy of the Four Swordsmen of Solta title, now would we? Our predecessors would cry."

Ruyan only looked at the trees ahead, and how they touched the sun.

They were beautiful.

Unlike the gangly and knotted trees he'd known, the Billiana trees grew straight up in an oddly satisfying way. The branches were the same. And on those branches that stretched to the heavens, fresh green leaves, with stems that led to soft white lights of something... Something akin to the stars in the sky.

The gentle winds rusted the treetops, and those lights seemed to shimmer and dance away in the breeze, like a cluster that lazily grew through the skies.

The Moreans revered those trees as "the sacred trees where the Mother of All Things dwelled within," wasn't it?

He couldn't comprehend why. And if he could, under the captivating spell of those trees, he'd happily stroll over and gaze at the dancing fruits for as long as he could stand it. If only...

"If you want to stay here, so be it. I'm going."

Darius's footsteps started up once more. His downturned eyes towards the village were frozen cold.

"I-I can handle this with you."

Right fist, clenched tightly.

It was a mark that brought death, after all.

Ruyan looked at that silver haired man, his friend, and gently placed a hand on his shoulder.

"I don't want you to experience what I had to. Besides, you've gotten soft - your father would chew you out if he saw you like this."

"Hear, hear. Just stay soft over here nice and safe while me and Darius become the heroes of legend."

Felk gave a shit-eating grin and a laugh before his face turned serious again.

"So, which way should we go first?"

"To the Billiana Forest, of course. Start a fire there, then the encircled village will catch fire easily."

[something about how this will make it really bothersome to get out quickly idk]

".....I won't be running away. I want to be the last one there."

Ruyan and Felk both snapped their heads up, looking straight at Darius.

"T-the hell did you just say? No matter how good we are, we're up against those counteroffensive guys of Morea! We don't know how many and how skilled they'll be, and you wanna stay behind!?"

"If you guys can get out, that's enough."

"Why are you saying this now?!"

Felk grabbed Darius up by the collar while Ruyan tried to hold him back.

"You two, stop it! We still need to stay quiet!"

"I swore to myself that I'd take revenge. Until not a single person remains."

Darius broke out of Felk's slackened grasp, and descended down the slopes that twisted as much as the roots of the trees that surrounded them. Felk could only grit his teeth, fists tight.

"If you wanna die so much then.. Damn it, just... Go ahead!"

"Folk, I'm sorry, you'll have to excuse his... This is our battle too, it's because he's worried that he said it like that..."

"Where? Where, can you tell me what part of that was for our sake?! Seriously, it's like you can only see the good things in all that bullshit!"

"Ahaha, you know how it is, ten years or so of family life does that. Come on, we can't get left behind now."

"Ruy, you're just too soft-hearted..."



the gang now goes on a little stroll through the forest, around the perimeter of the village, and closeby the phantasmal lights of the billiana as if it danced on the three people. they saw a few bird traps and carefully snuck by them, and luckily the moreans didn't seem to have guard dogs or animals like that. even the livestock just saw them and was like eh you're not food don't care

But, one time, they met eyes with a girl who just came out of her house, and the proximity was enough to make them freeze up. the girl squinted, looking around the area, coming closer to the three who hid in the shadows of the tree....

But at that moment, a child's voice rang out from some other tree, and she went to the source of that as she grumbled.

"That woman was just inches from death."

Felk whispered, thin rope still in hand.

"You could say the same for us, too."

Ruyan lowered his bow.

Darius put his knife back in its scabbard, and glanced over to what the girl was doing.

Just a little bit away, in the shadows of that other tree, was a little boy probably around ten. And that girl, probably about the age to be considered an adult to society, though she looked pretty much like a kid still, and now she was looking aghast at the direction of Darius's group.

They were seen! Before either of the two could scream for help, they had to shut them up, fast...

...Yet, seeing that girl's red hair, Darius could not move from his spot.





oh darius evergrace your problems are rooted deeper than the greatest billiana trees

“Sis, there’s some weirdos over there.”

The little kid said, half in shock. At that, though, the girl could only let out a shrill scream of fear.

“Children?” Ruyan’s bow wavered.

“Darius, the HELL are you doing there?!”

Felkin dashed out, but not as fast as the children who fled deeper into the village. The voices of distant people were only getting louder and louder.

Felk clicked his tongue. “Hurry, into the Billiana Forest!”

and so felk ran to the glittering forest. darius bit his lip at making such an epic fail and ran after him.

on the hills where the billiana grew were drops of light that shone white. darius and the gang made their way deep to the biggest trees...

"Darius, here!"

Ruyan brought out a piece of cloth from his waistpouch, seemingly soaked in oil. Felkin brought out a small canister, perhaps of porcelain or of glass. And lastly, Darius brought out a piece of coal from a reinforced chamber tied to his belt, the coal still burning hot.

"Stop it! Have you even thought one ounce about what you're doing?!"

From the bottom of the hill was an old man cloaked in green robes, short of breath and pale with age. Beside him was the young girl, but at once he shook his hand off from her, and stretched his hands across the width of the great Billiana tree - standing before Darius and the others.

"Gramps, you sure are brave trying to stall us like that. But you're only setting yourself up to a real toasty death, there..."

Felk gave another one of his sneers again, and threw the ignited canister against one of the Billiana trees. With a shatter, the oil, the shards, they flew in the air. The old man turned pale.

"What are you saying to yourself?! If the great Billiana die, then it'll be the end of our world as we know it!"

"Yeah, that's what you lot think, but we're not you, so tough luck!"

and felk started doing more fire starting. the old man could only shake in anger as he watched.

"Those men with weapons are coming from the village! Darius, get me some fire!" Ruyan reported, as he looked closely down from the hilltop.

"Wait! You don't have to involve the villagers in this! If it's my life you want, take it. Just... Just leave the Billiana trees in peace..."

"Heh, and how can we believe that?"

"..."

"...Kaina, please stop everyone from coming here."

The old man spoke, without a hint of betrayal in his voice. But, from the hill, the lone girl rose her voice, loudly in anguish.

“That’s....! If you do that, the villagers....”

“It is either my life or the entire village! Do you not understand?!”

As if she was hit, the girl’s body turned stiff for a moment, before she ran towards down the hill, sobs underlying her voice.

“...We’re the bad ones here, aren’t we.” Ruyan whispered, weary.

“Ain’t no other way around it. Either this, or all the other villages and people depending on us are done for.”

“But it hasn’t happened yet. If the great Billiana dies, then so will this earth. That’s what it’s been trying to tell you!”

The old man continued. “If the earth beyond here is weak, it’s because the great Billiana’s power has been weakened. With time, if you give the Billiana more time, it will come back to life - both the trees and the earth.”

“The villagers have stopped moving. It doesn’t seem like they’re climbing up to greet us, but... We... We *are* surrounded.”

Ruyan whispered, looking down on the people. The light of the Billiana simply continued to shine down on it all, both Darius’s group and the villagers of Morea. The men in a particular deep green armor, then the counteroffensives beyond then, clad in black. Ruyan was caught off guard at the sight of it all.

The old man, breathlessly, continued on with his speech.

“By the will of the Mother of All Things, I swear that we will do our best to save your villages and your people. If you give us the time, you can entrust it to us.

And... We will... We will even serve all of you.”

“You.. All of you... Are you saying you’ll become slaves for us? Is that what you’re really saying?”

Felk and Ruyan could only stare at each other, not comprehending how they could even say such words. The old man, in a pained face, nodded as clear as day.

“That is what I’m saying.”

Ruyan shook his head slowly.

“Felk, Darius, I..... I don’t know what to say anymore...”

“.....”

“You’re all full of shit.”

Darius grabbed the canister out of Felkin's hands and drenched the tree's roots in gasoline.

"So the earth's going to rot away, huh? Good. That's the revenge I want, anyways - for all of you to rot away in hell, for trying to destroy my village. For killing my parents."

With a completely emotionless face, Darius threw the live coals upon the roots.

With a shaky voice, aghast at what just happened, the old man asked a question to Darius.

"You're from... You're from Solta, aren't you?"

"That's right."

The old man dropped his shoulders. As the Morea villagers surrounded him, an excruciating whisper spread through the crowds.

"Ohh.... Oh, no..."

"Then that must be, all this..."

"He's a Crest-bearer, isn't he?"

"YES! I HAVE THIS DAMN CREST! SO ARE YOU GONNA KILL ME?! LIKE YOU DID WITH MY FATHER, MY MOTHER, AND WITH SHARLINE TOO?!"

The anger in Darius's voice rose as the embers that grew into flames where the oil pooled. With a woosh, the flames that he stood before rose up to the skies.

"You all killed my family. I can never forget what happened on that day."

The fires swelled larger and larger, where there was oil there were flames, crackling as they advanced on all sides towards the Billiana trees. Darius's face, awash with rage against the backdrop of the crimson flames, was one akin to the devil.

"Water!"

"Hurry, put it out!"

The Moreans' voices rang out from all four corners, from all sides, as they desperately tried to stop the spreading flames. From there came men with weapons, approaching Darius's direction as he stood ready to fight...

Darius laughed.

"I couldn't do anything because I was a child. I couldn't do anything as I watched my parents get killed. I couldn't do anything when Sharline protected me. I was a stupid, snivelling kid, I could only pray that everything would disappear..."

And they did. The man who killed my parents, and Sharline too! The only reason I'm still here and alive is another curse upon me, and now on all of you!"

"I've been cursed, this Crest is cursed, and you, I HOPE YOU'RE ALL CURSED! I WILL NEVER FORGIVE ANY ONE OF YOU FOR ROBBING ME OF EVERYONE I LOVED!!"

darius just started talking to himself like a demon going mad. he's finished lashing out at the morea villagers, he's mad as hell he just explained his whole life story to them out of anger. and more fire. and.... he's injured, maybe? but he's been separated from the others because of the fucking fire he's set. hoping that ruyan and felkin stay behind to you know, douse those fires bro

surrounded by fire, it's obvious that from his other lines of dialogue (you two stay behind, it's okay if i'm the one who perishes, i'll go instead) that he was wanting to die amidst the flames of the billiana forest

FUCK IT PAST ALAYNA WAS SO DUMB WHY DIDN'T SHE TRANSLATE THIS PROPERLY

"Just go, stop getting close to me!"

In front of the soldier he'd just finished off, Darius's eyes met another enemy, ready to strike. The blood ran through his veins as hot as the fires that began to spread.

"Don't say such stupid things, Darius!"

"Ruyan, it's just as I said. I will never let the Moreans go. Just like this Crest."

"Stop it, or you're going to die!"

Unfettered by his words, Ruyan dashed to Darius as the enemies closed in around him, but Felkin quickly held him back.

"Let go! Felk, let go of ME!"

"Do you wanna die at the hands of that idiot!?"

"We have to get him out of there! Darius, Darius!!"

As Ruyan tried to escape Felkin's grasp, more Morean soldiers entered the fray. With one hand holding onto Ruy and another grasping his sword, Felk clashed with them all.

"Damn it, don't tell me I'm gonna die here, too!"

Within the roar of the flames, whipped to life by the wind, Darius could only mutter to himself.

"This is where I am going to die. With that... I finally get to atone for what I did to Sharline."

“Sharline.”

Someone repeated over and over.

“Sharline.”

“Sharline.”

“Sharline.”

In the burning glow of the Billiana trees, the embers of light carried a whisper to the wind.

“Sharline.”

“Sharline.”

“Sharline.”

And then

“...*Darius?*”

Upon hearing his name, Darius gasped and raised his head. Beyond the embers of light, above the great tree, on a small portion of its branches, a light shining just as brightly...

A round... fruit.

Glowing with the reflection of.... Water, rippled by the waves. Above the water, skies. Yellow trees.

A scenery he'd never seen before.

Then, a silhouette of a person, standing.

Red hair illuminated by the sunbeams that streamed through the trees on the hill.



A single braid draped down the right ear, a hairstyle “that girl” had once grown fond of.

The outfit that the female hunters of Solta wore.

A white bow in hand, and feather-tipped arrows in the other... she turns around, tilting her head back mysteriously.

“S.... Sharline?

.....Urk!”

A sharp pain came from his right hand, a white light glowing from the Crest hidden by leather and rope. The pattern grew brighter and brighter with every pulse. Darius screamed out in pain and rage.

“Now what is it, you cursed mark?! No.. wait, stop! STOP! STOP!!!”

In a single moment, it was as if the Crest and Billiana trees flashed white together. And as the searingly bright burst of light disappeared, so did every trace of Darius.



hope you enjoyed that special alayna document only translation. it was originally like this

“some extensive lore of edinbury, the disappearance of rieubane, and the formation of fontraile and the disagreements between the four villages that make it up, AND THEN even more moments with darius, ruyan, and felkin as darius escapes the scene of a bloody battle and make some light banter where ruyan has little bro moments, and then they head towards the billiana forest where the game truly starts

stayed up until 4 last night reading about darius burning down billiana trees and harassing a grandfather in front of his granddaughter. when the villagers ran to get water and panicked at the fires, you know what darius did?

he started laughing

ruyan and felkin are complicit too. felkin is going along because he believes too much in the studies that say the trees are sucking up life and destroying the land

ruyan is the one who realizes he's doing bad, but... well i'm gonna read more to see what happens but still

like ruyan was convinced they were doing bad things and wanted them to stop but darius kept throwing gasoline on the trees like yeah he did go in wanting to die like this

like, i am pretty sure he made molotov cocktails

4 AM watching these guys destroy things wasn't good for my psyche. what watching your beloved family die does to a bitch”

and then the rest of it after darius decides to die in the fire. that bit about sharline, huh? that fucked me up when i realized the context, because before that i was like “haha uhuh why is sharline's name being repeated over and over”

ah. it was darius. wanting to atone for killing sharline, and then setting fire to the forest, and then standing there, repeating her name until he dies. my heart hurt to see it

though it was sure also interesting to see the depths of darius's despair

darius is a little twisted <- agetec's biggest understatement lol

Rieubane, the end of glory, the Lost Empire

Music to play along: [📺 Sunbeams Streaming Through Leaves On The Hill Evergrace OST](#)

Notes: Krisalis was a very fun character to read about. At the same time, this is also in point form and all, but it's quite faithful to the original game at this point.



- well obviously. darius wakes up
- krysalis is really cute in the characterization. she's like "I'm not a bird! I'm.. Wait, what am I? Huh? Huh? Huh??"
- she uses boku. she's very cute yeah. by the way darius uses ore, his whole speech is quite rough and direct. a few zo's
- she's a good companion indeed. she's a cute and light foil to the brooding and fucked up darius. he's very worried for his friends he just abandoned in morea (even going as far as to correct himself after calling them comrades/teammates/nakama/etc, he refers to them as his FRIENDS)
- you have friends darius! maybe you do lol. they might have died by now :(
- and she's just like "mhm.. okay then. cool"
- anyways he used kisama for krysalis. even the narration calls her a bird anyways
- Interestingly, while talking to darius about going to morpheus' lab, she just goes... "a?" and disappears. this is unlike the game, she doesn't seem to disappear of her own volition. i wonder if this is because of the mother of all things being like "no more talking. shush"
- so darius is alone..... until he hears old man yelling
- meet naphato the third
- "hope you don't mind if i borrow your sword, old man!"
- gory battle with a monster who sprayed purple blood

- naphato the third is saved! he didn't want to be though. he takes out a tattered cloth to wipe himself down, probably. he likes to spit a lot, i learned that tsuba is saliva last night
- he's also clutching a red flower, given to him recently.... "oh, did you know that girl from solta?"
- "there was a girl from solta here?" "yeah she went off to find the person who saved her, think her name was sienna"
- "sienna...."
- more monologue from old man. darius just interrupts him. he really doesn't respect old men. but alas
- "anyways you should go meet up with my right hand man, olllllllll [fuck i forget his name lol]"
- Interestingly, he also mentions that ol whatever was very close with his daughter, the princess. maybe they were gonna get married? so then why is olllll whatever courting sharline huh. BACK OFF. DIE
- but before he goes on any further, he notices...
- the crest on darius' hand! damn! shuts the door behind him and accuses him of being morpheus' creations or something. since he made the alcrest and all
- and that's all. onto the stupid fucking cave time with darius. where are you krysalis i miss you

WAIT I FORGOT THE STUFF IN THE CAVE. it was boring as hell but krysalis saved it. i don't like any of these parts in OG evergrace either. rieubane castle and the cave make me zzz

- darius goes into cave
- stone ass thing starts moving
- holy fuck
- runs back where he came, absolute shock, cold sweat
- and as he rubs the sweat away, he mutters to himself:

".....This is absolutely right out of a fairy tale."

"Fairy tale?"

Shocked, Darius looked around the room.A golden bird-like thing flapping its wings, Krisalis no doubt. She flapped her wings proudly.

"Eheheh, found ya. Though, what're you doing in a place like this?"

"That's my line. What's something like you doing here?"

"Well, I just said I found you, didn't I? This is a cavern under the castle.... Ooh, are you going to the castle? What for?"

"Castle.... Guess that old man wasn't spouting nonsense after all."

"Hey, hey, what's this fairy tale thingy you mentioned?"

"....It's the kind of ridiculous feeling you get when a featherless freak of bird starts talking to you, a stone statue starts moving out of nowhere, that kind of thingy."

beep beep beep krisalis explains palmira here, cuz they don't have any on the outside (but don't they?)

cute krysalis moments happened too

- "i can't beat this guy. i gotta go to the castle."
- "if that's so, then this way is a dead end."
- But Darius kept walking forward.
- "you don't believe me? you're so mean, it's true! i'm not lying!"
- "i only believe things with my own eyes."
- "it's truuuuue!!!!" (it was lol)

so krisalis teaches him some Actions and well

"i know, it'll make me ten times stronger," heh a line from the game it seems. but it's not all that darius!!! after following krisalis' actions.....

darius figures out how to use palmira actions and launches a fireball from his hands. he says "UWAA" lol. he uses to take down the stone monster

after beating the monster

"yaaattaa!! darius is amazing!!"

Krisalis fluttered around excitedly, slightly messing up Darius's hair [or something.]

"We can get to the castle from here!But, there's gonna be a lot of scary monsters in there."

"...Hey, you, how do you know my name?"

"Er, uh, y'know... you told me when we first met...."

Krisalis flew right up to Darius's face, giving a little nod. Though, his cold stare didn't break for a moment.

"I haven't told anyone my name."

"....That can't be... Then... Then.... Then when did I get to know you, Darius?"

"You should be hearing that from me. Where did you come from, appearing in front of me? Were you looking for me? What and why would you come to the aid of someone like me?"

Krisalis shone a little less brightly, and flew a little bit away from Darius.

"I saved you because I... I wanted you to save me. I.... I used to be a human."

Darius shot a sharp look at her. Krisalis nodded with greater desperation.

"It's true! Really, my real body was taken away by the Demon, and that's why I look like this. I, so I, I don't have much time left..... Even now, I....."

"I....."

Even as she talked, the colour from Krisalis's body slowly faded away.

"P.... Please... Please save.... Me..... Darius, if you defeat the Demon.... you...."

"You, too, could..... Return..... Outside...."

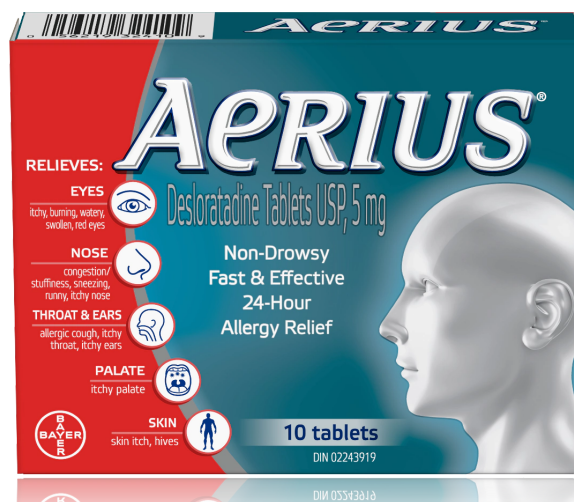
"Demon? What are you talking about?"

"Darius..... Brought you.... Here..... Please....."

"Hey, hold on!!"

"...D.... arius....."

THE



definitely, she's being taken away from the mother of all things.

ah and instead of taking the royal lift up to the castle outskirts, the door behind the stone monster leads into the castle itself. neat

A place of death and overwhelming madness, Rieubane Castle

Music to play along:  Castle Of Regression Evergrace OST

Notes: Orladin is the king's nephew. Lisumur is the king's daughter. Orladin definitely has a thing for his cousin. And this will be referred to throughout the novel.

big difference between the novel and game! darius travels with orladin quite a bit, and it introduces minor new characters like fang and bard who are soldiers that travel in the group.

here's a lil excerpt from the novel about all that

Footsteps. As they got closer, so did the sound of clanging metal. From Darius's path, came the figure of something... or someone.

It was a man, decked out in plate armor. His footsteps stopped, and as soon as he noticed a shadowy figure from his surroundings, his eyes opened wide and pointed a sword at Darius's way.

"Please, hold on. I'm not here to fight." Darius dropped his weapons, hands raised up as he looked closer at the person. Armor, similar to the corpses he'd seen on the way here...

"Am I talking to one of the soldiers of Rieubane right now?"

The man's face softened a bit, and thought for a moment, hand still steady on the sword. After a silence, he opened his mouth.

"That's right. What business do you have in the castle of our king? What are you?!"

"My name is Darius. That old man, I think his name was Naphato-the-something, told me to come here."

"King Naphato? Is he alright?"

"He's probably lonely right now, and pretty bitter with his words, but he's fine. He told me to come here and give Orladin some assistance."

"How.. Did you come here?"

"From underground, you could say. I have to admit, that gatekeeper statue's guts sure were cold..."

The soldier nodded, and brought his weapon back to his side.

"To get through that with no problem... Is something that the royal family can only do. Come quickly, please. We need all the help we can get."

"Could you tell me your name?"

"Ah, sorry. It's Fang. I'm just one of Prince Orladin's guards."

you can imagine they're going to the safe space right now. i'm gonna keep translating dialogue

"It's... A pretty horrible sight here, isn't it." [darius doesn't know how to read the mood]

"Morpheus sent his best regards over... And those monsters tore the castle apart to what you see now. We had all soldiers on hand, and almost all were killed promptly, with if anyone escaped I'm not sure how they could even do so... And Prince Orladin, as the princess is still alive and kept hostage, we..."

"Princess?"

"Yes, Princess Lisumur. ...Were you not aware of that?"

"I haven't really gotten the time to take everything in since I came to this kingdom. I apologize to say this, but there's just not much I know about here. King Naphato told me to come here, and that is all."

[it's hard to translate but they're both talking quite politely here]

"I see... It has been one disaster after the other after all."

blublublu they keep walking, from somewhere darius hears the whispers on the wind... a woman's voice, crying? whatever they make it to the door which fang knocks on and is like

"hey i'm back. it's fang. i brought a guy who came from underground"

there was a guy with blonde hair, sitting at a table, probably around the same age as darius. and another person, who wore the same armor as fang. the vibe is..... dark, as darius tells his story of how he got there and such. the blondie says "i seeeee...."

"So then, it seems like there's no more soldiers, I take it? It seems like the glory of Rieubane's empire army has whittled down to us three."

a bitter laugh and smile...

"Wait, well, now we have this fellow named Darius, don't we? That makes it four."

"...Is it a Rieubane thing to not introduce yourself first?"

The blonde youth looked at Darius with a sharp stare. In the heavy air, he made his way to Darius... And with a lighthearted gesture, extended his hand for a shake.

"Ahahaha! Forgot my greetings, haven't I. I'm Orladin.

And though I may be a prince, I'm still a long ways from the throne... 5 places, but what can you do? Besides, I've probably gone up two or three spots by now."

"I heard you were looking for Morpheus? Just what is he?"

"You came here, even without knowing?"

"I assume he's the one sending all these monsters out here."

“And right you’d be. He’s been studying Palmira even before I was born, a scientist of Palmira armaments. And with that, we let the power go to our heads, and out of it came this great calamity, and these monsters that seem to want to finish the job by killing us off one by one. That’s what happened in this castle, and so the king and I ventured out to his laboratory, and...”

Orladin took a moment to breathe, rubbing his face with his hand.

“...He saw us coming, and sunk the laboratory underwater. So many of the soldiers were just swallowed up by the sea. We could just barely escape with a few soldiers, and when we returned to the sight of this castle... The king simply couldn’t take it.”

“So, I’m here in hopes we can retake the castle, gather up the remaining soldiers, and... Well, exterminate all the monsters left, but... Anyways, that’s the current situation.”

“And, the princess?”

“Lisumur, the king’s daughter... She should be in the audience room, trapped there.”

“...A hostage in a crumbling castle, huh? Why, of all reasons?”

“....I hate to think it, but she’s being kept alive so we stay put.”

“That’s... Weird. You don’t sound sure of yourself.”

“You! Enough with your rudeness before the prince!”

The soldier stood before Orladin in a booming voice, but the prince admonished him sharply.

“That doesn’t matter now! You... Might be right about that. It doesn’t make sense for Morpheus to scare us with a hostage situation like this.

...But, no matter the reasoning, Lisumur is still alive, and I still want to try and save her.”

“Well then, why are you all still here like sitting ducks?”



[darius evergrace your problems are etc etc. THINK BEFORE TALKING]

Darius's question earned him a quiet, bloodthirsty look of rage from the soldiers.

It wasn't until, from Darius's side, a stiff looking Fang answered his question.

"The path to the audience room has been paved with monsters that look like... They're made of ivy, per se. We could get through them... But, we can't increase the amount of casualties now. We wouldn't get out alive."

Orladin gave a wiry, jaded laugh. "And all the soldiers who could use Palmira armaments are dead by now. Up till now, we've just been thinking of ways to get Lisumur out safely, and which way we could exit. Fang, what did you see?"

"The stairs leading below are covered with that same ivy - we probably can't go that way."

"Bard?"

"The castle surroundings are covered with a strange fog, with strange... Bugs loitering about, spewing what looks like water. I say, looks like. oh wow that kanji is big and scary i'm not translating the rest of that bit"

ORLADIN AND THE GANG ARE REALLY BORING BUT I MUST PRESS ON

those replies brought orladin some more anxiety or whatever. he closed his eyes.

"If only we had one more soldier who could use Palmira, we might have a solution on our hands..."

In the middle of this problematic discussion, Darius broke the silence.

"If it's someone who can use Palmira, I can help."

ONE FUNNY MOMENT

- hey guys check this out *darius shoots a fireball from the tip of his sword*
- **"KISAMA ARE YOU PART OF MORPHEUS' EXPERIMENTS COMING TO KILL US?!"**

they all rushed out with weapons at him. lol. but orladin stood at front

"Wait! Don't act too hasty, not yet! If this was really one of Morpheus's henchmen, would he appear to us taking on the form of a human?"

....Well, actually, he could, but even so we have invited him in. That's the situation now."

orldin looked squarely at darius - idk why the book has the word chest here, it's not like orladin is looking at his boobs..... OR IS HE!? i have no clue

Darius looked back, without a hint of fear in his face. And so, the prince smiled.

"The look of a proud warrior. I can't promise you fame or fortune, but still, would you lend your power to us?"

“All I wish is to get to Morpheus, whether it be his laboratory or anywhere else.”

“I think I know what you’re getting at. After we get out of here with the princess, I’ll tell you all that I know. We’ll go together.”

With a deep nod from Orladin to his soldiers, he led the way out of the room.

and i will now translate the bit where orladin and the gang make it to the audience room because it introduces two certain characters.... :)

As soon as Orladin opened the doors to the audience room, a sweet scent filled the air. Glossy, lush leaves and plants, with flowers that bloomed in red and yellows. A golden royal statue, surrounded by pillars... Was slowly being eaten alive by whorls of green.

In the middle of this room, a beautiful garden, and before it were small birds, listening to the bright voice of a certain woman.

“Ufufu, they’re so pretty. I don’t suppose there’s more of you? More of you playful little things...”

“Lisumur!”

Orladin ran towards her, with Darius following close behind. Atop a luxurious bed with canopy, a young woman donning a light red dress... and a little boy, clothed in plain fabrics, sat by her side.

The girl seemed to be around the same age as Orladin. Long, golden hair trailed down thin shoulders, like glittering waterfalls, and onto a deep red velvet cushion. A small face, clear blue eyes, looking at the little boy that sat beside her.

The little boy, around 5 or so, sat beside the woman in this ornate garden, looking a little mismatched. Worn out clothes, simple and blue, and flaxen hair cut neatly above his ears - though it also fanned out in every direction even without a hand to mussle it. On the front of his clothes, decorations, like the tan feathers of a bird that stuck out quite noticeably.

His face had not a single emotion emanating from it. Like a doll, he simply faced the woman with a blank stare. this is giving darius bad vibes.



i swear to god that is not katia

"A.. Ah.... Ah..... That kid from Toledo?!"

"What is it, Fang?"

that guy was practically shaken with fear. even as his partners tried to raise a hand up to console him, he fucking BOLTED. guess he has reason to because trandin just started floating in the air.

Darius's bad vibes were right. A cold chill ran down his back, and a pulsating pain came from the back of his right hand.

"That's a monster?! Lisumur, get away from that thing!"

Scowling at the young boy, sword in hand, Orladin flung his hand out to the woman. But, she continued to play with a little white thing in her hands, unmoving, and only gave a hollow smile to him.

“Lisumur, what’s wrong?! Do you not recognize me? It’s me, Orladin!!”

“O.... Or.... Ladin?”

From a dream, to see her again....

But the princess’s face quickly warped with disgust.

“Liar. Orladin and my father both ran away without me.”

“Lisumur...?”

“It was so scary... Because they fled... Mother... The maids.... Everyone was killed...”

“No! That’s not it, to stop Morpheus, we had to go in order to....”

“THEY RAN AWAY! Just when the monsters came more and more, only you ran away! Not just me, everyone in the castle, you abandoned us all! You betrayed us..!!”

That deep red velvet cushion wasn’t a cushion.

Her hair fluttered as she screamed. Below Lisumur’s body were not legs, but an entangled mess of black roots... Like a giant, monstrous snake. The cushion unravelled itself into a huge, impossible flower the shade of blood. And in the middle of the petals, the princess was crying.

“Horrible! Just horrible! Why did you leave me alone? Why? TELL ME, WHY!”

Giant flowers growing out the gaps of fabric.

“Li... Lisumur.... You.... Morpheus, he...”

“Are you going to run away? Orladin, are you going to abandon me again?”

Well?

Well?

Well?”

things are happening probably preparing to fight and shit. suddenly the little boy raises his small hand, and flash of light grows [to attack them obviously], and upon seeing a certain bruise on the back of his hand, darius’s heart skips a beat.

“Was that the Crest?”

distracted by that “which looked a bit like his crest, but wasn’t quite it,” he almost gets hit with light lol LOSER anyways he’s fighting the twisted black ivy and trying to save the other soldiers for it too

“You guys take care of the plant monsters, I’ll deal with the kid - AGH” “YOU IDIOT DON’T HURT LISUMU - AGH” “THEN DO YOU WANNA DIE?!”

in the middle of orladin being a roadblock they're taken off guard by electric attacks and stuff and man they're uncoordinated. lisumur takes the chance to say more things

"Orladin, it's so cold here... Please don't leave without me.... I'm... So lonely..."

"Just give us the go ahead, and we'll.."

"No! That is Lisumur, but she's been cursed by Morpheus. But... I still want to save her! We need to retreat one more time! Fall back, men!"

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry.... I beg you, saaave meeee!!!!"

Fang was still holding his head in confused panic, unable to escape the audience room. Only two soldiers were able to escape the room in the chaos - if they lost more, it was over. Darius spun around and ran back into the room.

"Don't leave me alone.... Don't abandon me here..."

so darius and orladin both got back in, and snapped fang out of it, got him free of the ivy with the fire palmira but then THE LITTLE KID STARTED A HUGE ENERGY ATTACK

"Run! Get out of here!!"

At the same moment Darius shouted that out, the little boy SHOOTS HIS ENERGY BALL ATTACK but DARIUS IS REALLY STRONG AND DEFLECTS IT WITH HIS SWORD POWER WOW DAMN but the SWORD GETS A CRACK IN IT OH SHIT AND THE FIREBALL HE JUST LAUNCHED DISAPPEARS but the kid is stunned for a moment and THAT'S ENOUGH DARIUS RUNS OUT TO THE HALLWAY AND TO THE UNDERGROUND STAIRWAY

BUT THE KID IS STILL FOLLOWING EVEN AS THE GUYS ARE TRYING TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE OUTSIDE

BUT DARIUS'S WEAPON SUCKS ASS AND HE ONLY HAS HIS WARHAMMER OH SHIT HE GETS A SPEAR FROM SOMEWHERE AND FUCKING STABS THE KID

"HYA" he doesn't die though dw darius won't kill a kid yet.

the gang rushes towards the top of the castle i think actually. but behind them a sobbing voice followed...

"Please, come back... Please.... Orladin... Please...."

once they all reach the top, the door opens to the cloud of fog rushing in...

"Wait... Please... Don't go... I don't want to be alone... Orladin..."

orladin looked back in pain in the direction of that voice, grit his teeth, and continued forward. idk but they definitely go through the door and then close it behind

"Until we have a solution to this. For as long as eternity stands, do not open this door."

And at the sound of his voice, they closed the door shut, with nary a gap to show.

“ORLADIN!!”

From beyond the door, the wailing of the princess.

“Why? Why did you do this? Don’t leave me here! You’ll come back and greet me with a smile, won’t you?! Don’t leave me alone, please, Orladin, Orladin, Orladin, Orladin...”

Don’t go off without me...”

That shrill voice, full of sobs, repeating his name over and over.

“.....Lisumur, I promise you I will return. Until then, wait there... Wait for me.”

As he nodded one last time, he distanced himself, and quickly made his way, far away from those castle doors.

“Orladin...!! It’s me, Lisumur! Where’d you go?

It’s lonely here...

Scary...

Please...

Help me...!

Don’t abandon me and run away!”

Those pitiful cries would crawl up the back of Darius’s group forever.



So now the homies decide to go to the shrine. “The shrine. We’ll meet the priestess there and ask for her guidance.”

“We’re relying on God’s will, huh?”

“It’s where the source of Palmira comes from - the Billiana trees. They worship the Billiana’s “Mother” at the shrine, they practically know everything there... I think.”

“Billiana... That cursed thing, that’s where Palmira power comes from?”

“It’s how the little kid’s “Alcrest” was made. And, probably its powers changed Lisumur, too...”

“Alcrest? You mean.. It’s not the Crest?”

“Morpheus created it on the basis of the Crest...” Orladin looked grimly at Darius.

“You’re... Do you not have the Alcrest?”

Orladin looked away after uttering those words, facing towards the shrine that slowly came into view.

“...Once that Alcrest is branded on someone, they can use Palmira powers, and surpass the limit of human strength. But, that power is a delicate balance, and most who have used it have surpassed both the power... And the definitions of what can be called a human.

For every Palmira soldier that succeeds, many more were lost in the process.”

“...So with those losses, that’s how you were able to take over so many nations.”

“Right. We were on top of the world, our royal empire... But that’s all in the past, for now.”

Orladin stopped, turning around to the hallowed towns with not a single person in sight.

“Now, the kingdom is like this. Who knows how many people are still alive... And how one can survive in this world, I certainly don’t know.”

With his mouth closed shut, he looked upon the town once more.

Then, Orladin turned around, and continued heading towards the shrine.

THE TUMBLR SUMMARY

it's quite interesting, the boring flirty bastard in the game becomes... well, he's still a bit boasting and cocky but i guess more fleshed out. The goal right now for them all is to:

1. somehow, save the princess lisumur (who is in the game! just didn't get a name nor much really)



2. reach the tower, because merida mentioned that there's a girl who's on her way there alone which is super not safe

3. well i guess krysalis still wants darius to go and get the demon for her. that's on the backburner rn

in the game/novel, orladin escapes the castle with king naphato, to the disdain of the princess. that's why when they meet again in the novel, she's like "why did you leave me alone? you know i hate being alone, it's so cold... my orladin.... don't go..."

it was fucked up. even darius acknowledges it was fucked up. "those weak cries would crawl up the back of darius' group forever."

otherwise, the royal soldiers are nice people. fighting a losing battle considering many people are dead. fang is a bit cute he drools in his sleep

otherwise the first visit to rieubane castle was quite unexciting.

[when i say unexciting it's because i severely miss sharline and don't want to read about men anymore]

TLDR

cavern moments with krysalis. castle time. darius teams up with the royal soliders. he has a hammer and breaks pillars. princess lisumur is there. so is trandin but he gets away. the ivy around the castle is actually alive and evil. anyways they all escape the castle, leaving the princess shut inside.

"it's so cold, don't leave me alone, i don't wanna be by myself, please, please..."

Royal Shrine, The Mother of All Things, and the blind priestess

Music to play along:

- ▶ EG Expression 0 Bonus Track Evergrace OST
- ▶ Buying Goods At Palmira Evergrace OST for also 2 seconds

Notes: You need 10000 IQ to translate Shopkeeper's monologue. I am sorry.

aka merida wakes up darius in the middle of the night to show up a funny crystal

jk! this is an interesting part. the gang of darius, orladin, and the soldiers leave the castle, passing through an abandoned town - this is probably salamad hill or the canyon outside rieubane castle.

they're going to merida to get some advice for how to save lisumur, but she doesn't know very much. she does suggest they all hunker down for the night to rest

between that though, she notes "ah darius yes, i've been expecting you. there was a girl from solta, looking for a "Sienna" so she head off to the tower. once i knew that, i foresaw you arriving."

"WHY DID YOU LET A GIRL GO OFF BY HERSELF TO THE TOWER OF DEATH AND FAILED EXPERIMENTS?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HER TO STOP???????"

"orladin i can't even stop you from trying to save princess lisumur. you think i can stop a dedicated girl"

"...."

"darius, do you know that girl?"

".....No. i just come from solta, so i was surprised to hear that you saw someone from there."

OYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY DARIUS CMON CMON BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF YOUR CREST OYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY DON'T DENY IT

OYY -

The girl from Solta.

Darius laid awake, listening to the leaky roof above.

When was the last time he had seen Sharline?

The girl who could shoot arrows better than anyone her age. For simply having the Crest, the villagers distanced themselves from Darius. It was Sharline alone who loved him as if a little brother, protecting him no matter what.

She said she'd protect him, no matter what.... That's right....

[the term "loved" is actually kawaiigari, which is to dote on or cherish or spoil. however i felt that cheapened it i'm not that kinda person i desire Love]

That last time... the memory was burned into his chest.

The feeling of being held gently, as the soldiers advanced.

It had to be at least 13 years ago now.

The lifeless bodies of a mother and father. An assassin's approaching footsteps. A bloodied axe that drew closer and closer to the young boy.

At that moment, one person leapt to protect him.

Sharline gave Darius a brave smile as she put herself between him and the axe's blade.

He wanted the pain and fear to go away. He wished for it deeply, and in that moment the Crest shone brightly... And then, everything in front of him disappeared, leaving only a young boy and the corpses of his parents.



merida then wakes darius up to show him a crystal pillar that'll help him, as it teleports him to a mysterious shop to buy more armour and shit. ALL THAT AND MORE AFTER I STOP CRYING ON THE BOOK RN LIKE WTF

SHARLINE

EPIC SACRIFICIAL BIG SISTER MOMENTS

I CRYING

i spent 30 minutes at least trying to understand the shop keeper. fucking elephant man, sure he's a nice guy but the monologue WENT ON FOR A WHOLE PAGE. IN HIRAGANA, KATAKANA, AND KANJI ALL MIXED UP. TUTORIAL UP THE ASS IN A BOOK I GUESS. i didn't even bother translating all of it you will need god or google for that

- he talked about pots and pumpkins i guess
- something about fashion probably?
- buy this and that, but actually you should buy what you want, though i'll have you know i have an eye for fashion
- don't forget the consumable items! (darius needs a few idk why i forget)

he bought some nice stuff though.

and here we get a bit of orladin's thoughts. i'm expanding it for the document because i mean it's character motivation but BEEP BEEP BEEP ROYAL INCEST AHEAD BEEP BEEP

Orladin?

She always seemed to say his name in a sweetly tinged voice.

Among the six princes and five princesses of the royal family, somehow, Orladin and Lisumur were always in the happy company of each other.

Ever since the age of six, being thrown into all the intricate and heavy royal ceremonies, that fact did not seem to change. Sneaking away from all the events and hiding in the passages of the castle, Orladin tucked himself away in secret places... Yet Lisumur could always easily find him, and the two hid together.

"If only me and Orladin were born somewhere far away from here..."

["on the contrary" is the translated line, i think it means just to be born as commoners]

And with those words, the king's only beloved daughter was wedded at the age of nine.

A country to the east of Edinbury, to a man of their royal family...

I didn't hear about it until it had already happened.... No, I just didn't want to know.

It was when Lisumur was 14 that she realized it.

"All women, even the daughter of the king, are simply powerless tools to further people's goals... Isn't that right?"

She stood in the courtyard, gazing up at the statue of the Goddess, eyes flowing with tears. Orladin could only stand stiffly, too formally, from far away,

Like when they were small, he wanted to pull her into his side, stroke her silken golden hair, and wipe the tears away from her aquamarine eyes. There were so many words he wanted to say to her.

But, the lowly prince with no power to his name had no right to touch the princess.

If only I'd been born five years earlier, just in time for the war that Rieubane fought in, to train and become strong.

But the unification was already near completion. There was no way out for him.

It was natural to be together as children. But only then.

Like a flower amidst its bloom, to the beautiful Lisumur, he could only say hackneyed words that a commoner might spout off.

"The King chose him for you. You have nothing to be worried about."

That's what you wanted to say to me?

She didn't even turn around as she said it. And Orladin couldn't even look up to her.

and then the whole thing with the calamity happened, lisumur was with the other country at this point maybe. the king and orladin fought against the scores of monsters, then OH SHIT LISUMUR IS NOW A MONSTER YOU FUCKED UP BIG TIME

"i gotta understand why lisumur is like that! hey merida why is your mom not telling me what to do blah blah blah"

[it's a bit haunting to hear how a minor character gets fleshed out, but you only know her as a monster in the game. princess lisumur... a beautiful princess who was friends with orladin, wed at FUCKING NINE, incredibly unhappy at 14... i think it's implied that they have a mutual attraction.

"when lisumur was wedded at nine, i didn't even know it happened. i didn't know what to say. no... i just didn't want to know." peppered with longing and beautiful descriptions of the princess and some suki here and there i think it was romantic

the above was my thoughts at first. below is my current thoughts.

so, with that big line of talking, what do you think? orladin peppered the hell out of that with beautiful descriptions of lisumur. to not want to think about her getting married... well, hm?

I considered all those sappy and neverending descriptions of her appearance to be romantic personally. and that's how i treat it for da rest of the novel... but hey fromsoftware is always leaving things up to interpretation, i'll let you decide. fucked up in the end, wedded at nine.... god damn]

In the room where the pillars almost resembled great Billiana trees, the three soldiers were resting... They were resting before, but all of a sudden, an argument could be heard.

[okay i have honestly no idea where the third soldier comes from. it's not darius]

"What's the point of staying here?"

"...I can't, I can't go back to the castle..."

"I understand, I don't want to see the princess in that sorry state, either. But, we swore loyalty - what happened to that?"

“...No... It's not the princess....”

“Then, what's gotten you so scared?”

“I... I don't want to remember it.... What happened on that day...”

“Which day?”

“What're you all talking about?”

The soldiers should have all stood up, noticing Orladin entering the room. But, Fang could only look down, sullen like a child. Before the events of the great disaster, Fang had been a loyal subordinate, though a bit simple-minded. But, after that, the person standing before Orladin had not a shred of that personality anymore.

“Fang, do you need to rest some more?”

“...No...”

The soldier's voice was very quiet. Fang looked at the two, and the two looked back with pained faces as they shook their heads. Orladin took a deep breath.

“I don't know what's going to happen next, but I know that when we go back to the castle, we'll have to fight again. But, with Darius here, we have five people. [LIKE SERIOUSLY i thought there was only 4 of them idk anymore merida is not one of them is she]. And without even one of us, we can't go any further. Do you understand?”

Fang nodded ever so slightly.

“If you get it, then get ready. Once he comes back, we're going.”

The two soldiers nodded, but Fang stayed there stiffly, frozen in place.

anyways darius is comin back from the shope.

“You sure look trustworthy now.”

As Darius packed life elixirs into his box, Orladin took a good look at his brand new set of armor.

He was one of the legendary four swordsmen and all, but Darius was more used to simple armor that didn't stand out throughout his years of battles. But, the shopkeeper had other plans in mind, and approached him with flashier threads.

A bright red mask, or a piece of armor that seemed to have flames emanating from it... It was just feathers, right? After a lengthy debate, he and the shopkeeper decided on something more reserved - a set of black armor with gold trimmings, and a band of sorts for his forehead. It was the kind of lavish dressup that he thought only high society folks would do, and he stirred around restlessly in his new armor.

Whether he knew all this or not, Orladin looked him down with a careful eye.

“Heh, yep, just like a royal guard. Unlike that crappy armor you had, you look a lot more like a soldier I can depend on.”

Darius wanted to protest, to say that the armor and weapons were certainly *not* his decision, but they were actually a lot lighter than he’d expect them to be - just as the shopkeeper said.

(That’s probably how Rieubane was able to become undefeatable, huh.)

[that is literally in round brackets. it’s probably darius thinking]

They were heavy looking, but he could move around without an inch of exhaustion. Darius could grasp a bit at the formidable forces that the empire had.

“I thank you for being a bit of a morale booster for the others. Is there anything else you need before we disembark?”

“No problem. Though, you sure you’ll be okay looking like that?”

“Ah. Well, I know I should be looking more relaxed, but things might’ve gotten a bit worse. Let’s go.”

Outside of the shrine, Merida and one soldier were waiting. Orladin’s face clouded over.

“Where’s Bard and Fang?”

[I SWEAR THERE WAS JUST FOUR]

“They seem to be still preparing, so...”

“Preparing? Are you sure?”

The soldier looked down. “Yes.”

“Then, well, Darius, sorry about that. You head off first to the castle’s direction - I’ll catch up soon.”

“Got it.”

after that darius leaves the shrine the merida has one last word for him.

“One day, you will hear the words of the Mother of All Things. When the time comes, please listen to Her.

Because nothing ever truly disappears forever.”

“...The Mother of All Things, huh? Those Moreans were always saying that kind of stuff. Sorry, but I don’t believe in god. If he was real, then the world would be just a bit better.”

darius atheist! inclusion win!

okay then. merida turns around, with a quiet smile and a soft whisper as she goes back to the road to the shrine.

“Everything that is good in life will always be preceded by hardships...”

Below Castle Rieubane - Calamity, Toledo, Krisalis

Music to play along:  Howl Evergrace OST

Notes: i feel bad for literally skipping through so much of this chapter okay like i was so excited to get to coliseum i'll do it more justice some more justice

okay so they go back to the castle (darius goes first because the others will tag along in a moment) and krisalis appears again!

[imma retranslate it properly here, but the original can be found below both are good cuz i'm so smart]

The city was filled with buildings of stone and brick, with 2 or 3 storey homes that continued on and on. A stone lined road for [horse-drawn] carts was lined with two ditches at its side. There must've been many people who lived here at one time.

There should've been hints of families, artifacts of people who once resided in the homes, or at least a sign of the very last breaths those people took... But there was nothing of the like.

Not even corpses.

The thing that Darius thought was a corpse at first glance, suddenly, a faint light started to drift above from it... Above the rooftops. Perhaps it was the soul of the dead, but at another moment, it showed its real form.

It noticed Darius, too. And fluttered around him cheerfully.

"Darr-iii-usss..."

Krisalis flew to Darius's side, craning her neck as she spun around him.

"Got ya some new armor, I see. This is kinda out of the blue, but I kinda got lost for the last little while. Though, why're ya even here in the first place? I thought you'd be over deep in the castle and alllll..."

"....."

"What's up?"

"You still haven't answered my question when we were down in the caves, you know."

"Eh? What..... question?"

Seeing a flare of anger in Darius's eyes after the kind of reply she made, Krisalis backed down a bit.

"What question did I ask, again?"

"Playing dumb, are you. How did you know my name?"

"I-I saaaaid, it was Darius who told it to me, riiight?"

"I didn't say it."

"Then... Then..... I just can't answer your questiooon!"

Krisalis flapped to and fro in front of Darius, head drooped in gloom.

".....Really, how can I make you believe me? Do you need to, like, hit me? If that's how it is, then you can use that weapon and smack one over me.

Ahh, but, please don't hit me too hard, or I'll die and all!"

And with that, Krisalis retracted her wings, and turned into a little floating ball of gold suspended in the air.



She looked a lot like a kid waiting to be scolded by their parents.

...It felt kind of familiar, though Darius couldn't place why.

Darius stared at her for a bit, and then continued to walk with a short sigh.

"Oh, you're not gonna hit me? Ahaha, Darius, you're really a good person!"

Stretching her neck back out, Krisalis flapped over to just above Darius's shoulder. Once more, Darius glared at her with deadset eyes and a sour scowl.

"Once more. Is this Demon you spoke of supposed to be Morpheus or not?"

"Ehh?"

"In this empire, they say that Morpheus is the one turning all these people into monsters. Then, with you, you said that the Demon got you and now you turned into this form. Is that about right?"

Krisalis turned quiet. Darius stopped walking, and turned to face her with an even more proper glare.

"That should've been an easy question. The Demon and Morpheus are one and the same, aren't they? Am I wrong? Answer me."

"...I don't know about that, but I also don't know if it's not like that..."

"You're evading the question, now?"

"Ah, well, this Morpheus you talk of, he sounds so similar to the Demon, but to say who did this to me... Whether or not they're the same, I just don't know!"

"And why is that?"

".....Ah, maybe, maybe one of them is just pulling the strings for the other? If you think about it like that, the pieces kinda fit together a lot better, right?"

"I don't wanna hear about what your guesses are. Just answer me properly...."

"U-UWAAAAGHHHH!!!"

A shriek that pierced the air. Darius and Krisalis turned around the face the road behind.

"T-the.. B-Bird of Gold! Help me, help meeee...!!"

"Fang? Calm down, what's going on?!"

fang pointed a finger at krisalis while freaking out in the middle of the road

"My prince! That's, that's the bird of the great disaster! Please get away from here, lest that time come again.....!"

"Er, you're saying that thing fluttering above Darius's shoulder is the thing that destroyed Toledo?"

"Y-yes! It's because of that that this empire has been shut from the outside w-world!"

Orladin looked at Fang, and then to Krisalis.

"That.... You're saying to accuse that thing of treason?"

The ground rumbled for a moment, and Darius looked at Krisalis with a shock. Within her golden glow, was a strange spiral that began to take form... He felt a mysterious power, and distanced himself from her, raising his weapon.

"What... What did you do?" [omae]

Krisalis looked up with a small jolt. It was as if... Some sort of power was rippling off her, in waves of light.

"Eh....? Ah, yknow... Darius... Why're you all stiff like that?"

"I'm serious. What in the world did you do?"

"That guy over there's got the wrong idea, I think. What could he say that I would even do, this lil' ol' me?"

Krisalis fluttered over to Orladin's direction, right above Fang's head, who looked ready to bolt at a second's notice.

"Heey, mister. Please don't point fingers at me like that. If I was like what mister said, then, don't you think I would've killed you, right, this, moment~?"

fang was petrified so she asked orladin instead

"Hey, don't ya think so?"

"Er, yeah..."

In the presence of seeing something so strange talk out loud, Orladin could only nod dumbfoundedly.

"This mister here, doesn't he seem just too tired? And also, he just looks so spooked out of his mind - he might faint with a light tap! Don't you think it'd be better if he just took a loooong rest, ya know?"

The soldiers nodded at Krisalis's words and turned to face Orladin.

"Prince Orladin, would you grant permission for Fang to return back to the shrine? He's simply not ready as it is..."

The prince sighed, begrudgingly listening to all the voices around him.

"Fang, do you want to go back to the shrine?"

At Orladin's words, Fang shook his head frantically, pushed away from his partners, and ran back the way he came, screaming in fear.

"What a sorry sight of a coward, eh."

As Fang's silhouette disappeared in the distance, Krisalis sighed glumly, and the remaining soldiers looked at each other with a pang of anxiety. Orladin could only mutter bitterly.

“He didn’t used to be like that, in fact, he shouldn’t be...”

Well, let’s go. Straight ahead to Morpheus.”

As Orladin opened the door to the castle, the four people (and one bird) were hit with a strange odour. If one listened closely, the sound of the wind could be heard, but that was it. The prince led the group, while Krisalis danced around on Darius’s shoulder.

“Heey, where’re we going?”

Though she was quickly shaken off his shoulder at that.

“Oyy, why’re you so mean!? It wouldn’t kill you to tell me, right? HO! RI! BLE!! I’ve been helping you as much as I can this whole time, haven’t I? Have - ”

“Shut up.”

Krisalis was interrupted by Darius’s sharp words and equally sharp glare. At that, a grumbling chirping came out instead.

[STOP BEING MEAN TO KRISALIS AND TO WOMEN DARIUS]

ignoring krisalis’s chripings, the gang descends quietly, deeper into the castle depths. king’s field ass moment. they avoided the audience room for now and descended deeper in and came across a door.

The mopey Krisalis raised her head just a bit.

“Ah, there’s some wind blowing through here...”

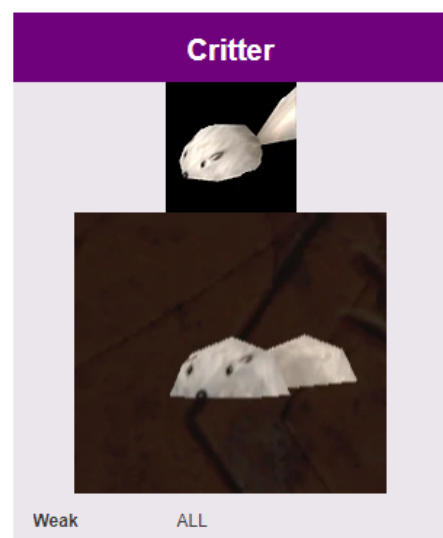
The soldiers peered inside, seeing a table, some rough-looking chairs, and a wall with shelves of armour and weaponry. But, as they entered, what they thought were a great discovery was in fact broken pieces of those tools.

The room had a large hole caused by a collapse in one of the walls. A hole that could probably fit a person inside - and it was from there that the wind came from.

Orladin froze up. In front of Darius and the others, a small animal of sorts popped out from the hole.

“It’s a Critter.”

CRITTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



The soldiers dropped their shoulders. The little white balls of fur that went *chii, chii* looked a lot like mice, but with huge fluffy tails. The Critter dove deeper into the hole where the wind rushed out.

“Darius.... what’s going to be at the end of that hole?” Krisalis muttered.

“The place where the little furball came from, I guess.”

“No, not that. Something... I feel something a lot bigger. What is that...?”

“Beyond that hole is the underground, I would think. There shouldn’t be anything living down there, last time I checked.”

Darius nodded at Orladin’s words, and ignoring Krisalis’s worries, looked [or maybe actually went in?] the hole.



fellas is it gay to descend into a hole with your travelling partner? i mean you’re basically exploring the colon of the castle (phallic)

It led to an empty room. At the very most was gravel at the corner of the room, swept up by the wind and into a large swirling hole. Though, it seemed that there was also a small mountain of something being built up... A mountain of small, white things..

Chii chii, chiri chiri, the noises that overlapped on top of each other as the mountain buzzed with life. From the top of this mountain, a thin line of red that descended from above and absorbed into the pile, over and over. It was more like the sound of something, somehow, chewing into a pile of bones.

A mountain of Critters. And what fell from the top, more Critters.

[i have no clue if they're building up or if they're cannibalising each other]

The mice-like animals shone with eyes red, their tails flapping, as they tried to reach the top of the tower. Darius looked up to their destination, and as he saw the top, readied his weapon.

Near the ceiling, the princess and the little boy floated. And the little boy picked up one of the Critters by its small neck.

[i will spare you the details but let's just say trandin would be contacted by the spca for what he just did]

The boy looked down at Darius. And at that moment he jumped up, ready to swing.

The pressure sliced like a knife, but the boy deflected it with his arm - though he was knocked back. From the ceiling came rocks and black ivy alike, squirming about the floor as if tentacles.

Now, it was the Critter's turn to attack. In waves of white, they launched against Darius as he summoned a wall of fire to block them.

"Darius!"

Orladin and the soldiers were busy fighting against the ivy, [idk but the ivy may be adapting to their movements or other way around]. The little boy floated in the middle of this tangled mess, facing the struggling Darius with a blank face. But, from the ivy, a gold bird emerged.

"Trandin!"

From a voice that appeared to come from Krisalis, suddenly, she appeared in front of the young boy.

"Trandin, thank goodness you're okay..."

Krisalis spoke, with quite an urgency. But, the boy looked at her without much of a reaction, and simply shot more arrows of light at Darius. Just in the nick of time did his armor's Palmira action block the light, and in retaliation he shot back a ball of fire - though the boy absorbed this, as well.

Without skipping a beat, Darius prepared to swing down his sword, but in that moment the boy launched a cloud of thunder and rain his way. Spinning on his heels, Darius retreated, but the cloud followed without mercy.

It was at that moment, between the light and the rain, Krisalis forced her way between the two and flapped angrily.

“Trandin, no, stop!”

“Krisalis, what are you doing?!”

She made her way through the clouds hastily, to get closer to the young boy.

“Trandin, stop it! Can you hear me? Don’t you get what I’m saying? ...Trandin?!”

The boy’s face contorted with annoyance. As Krisalis drew closer, he prepared a ball of light in his hand, and launched it. In the dazzlingly bright light, Krisalis let out a cry that rang through the air.

As her body was torn into pieces, the shriek suddenly melted away with the rest of her.

“Krisalis!!”

As the light disappeared, the only remains left were glowing drops.

“U....? A.... Ahh...”

The boy’s eyes opened wide. He stared at the space where Krisalis once was, then at his own hands. With a face that almost seemed ready to cry, he clutched his head, and started to speak again.

“A..... Au..... m.....ma.....”

He held himself, becoming smaller, as white light gathered around him. And as the light dispersed, so did he.

“Darius! Come here, we gotta go!”

Waiting at the rim of the hole was Orladin and a soldier. Another soldier seemed to be holding down the ivy, though he acted more like bait for the ivy to come in and wrap around him. THIS PART IS VIOLENT SO I’M POINT BLANKING IT

- darius tried to fire a ball at the ivy but they keep coming like a dragon
- darius just get here!!
- orladin disappears into the hole, and so does the last soldier, who looks at his partner for the last time with a sullen face.
- that other soldier was raised into the air and oh boy do you hear cries of anguish. from the coils of ivy around him, blood crept out.
- darius could only cut his way thru the ivy and get back into the hole
- but the darkness continued as much as the sounds of ivy following after them
- even a fucked up enemy in dark green that had weird ass tentacles that grabbed at darius but
- though he sent a ball of light at him, SOMEONE IDK HAS A CLUB IT’S A FUCKED UP FRENZY OF A BATTLE
- A SHARP SOUND OF A SWORD THEN

- oh my god darius beheaded the enemy it spit out some weird shit but dw it seems to be died
- and then the IVY CAME BACK but darius shot it off. and
- orladin and the last soldier got rid of the rest. oh god it's over right

Through the hole, a quiet clattering of the soldier's armor. A weak light struck from oil and match to light the way through the tunnel.

"This has been here since the era of the first king." Orladin said in a low tone, as they plodded forward. "It seems like it's been used before, too... That Morpheus, he's a sharp one."

"So, if we keep going forward, that Morpheus will be up ahead?"

"He should be... But if we keep going, we're not gonna get to the Tower directly. It's still a long way to go."

Looking back at the direction they came, Orladin had a face of sadness to the darkness that the castle was surely at the end of.

"...So many have sacrificed their lives. This might be our last chance... Or maybe, that chance has already passed us by.

But.... No, not but, in spite of that, I have to defeat Morpheus. I can't afford to die here."

Sacrifice.

Krisalis's screams wouldn't stop ringing in his ears.

"Say, that bird... Did she stop that monster of a kid for us?"

Orladin thought for a bit, then shook his head.

"No, it seemed more like... When he blew Krisalis clean away, he simply disappeared because he wanted to."

"Then, I guess we don't know when he'll come back.No, if we're getting closer to Morpheus, he'll definitely come back for us. Like a monster-creator relationship."

That kid, why did he disappear like that?

He seemed to be shaken up by Krisalis disappearing like that, almost as if afraid of something. And before all that, Krisalis definitely seemed to know who that child was.

...Trandin? Was that the kid's name?

What did Krisalis and Trandin have to do with each other?

As his thoughts continued, Darius faced the group of soldiers.

“So, what did Fang mean when he was talking about the golden bird, or that disaster of that time?”

Orladin stiffened up.

“That disaster, he means the incident where this kingdom became closed off to the rest of the world - the great disaster. Fang was deployed by Morpheus to raid the village of Toledo, and that’s when he said the disaster struck.”

Orladin looked down and shut his mouth. The other soldier continued to speak in his place.

“Fang was told to seek out Crest-bearers on account of Morpheus. That’s how he ended up in Toledo in the middle of his search.”

“To find Crest-bearers? To what ends?”

Orladin kept walking quietly, and opened his mouth only after a little while.

“Do you know why neither I or Bard can wield Palmira armaments?”

“No... I don’t really know.”

“Palmira Armaments are very unstable. If you just use it without abandon, then the power would go wildly out of control, and then just like that, you’re gone.

It’s said there’s only about one in a thousand people who could wield those weapons without worry, but that ability only lasts for a little bit. Naphato the Second was prepared to give up his own life in pursuit of those weapons.”

“But, our king, Naphato the Third... He was the one who discovered that Crest-Bearers could use these weapons completely safely. Have you heard of the legendary mercenary, Red Breeze?”

“Red Breeze... The one who could take on a hundred soldiers, the almost immortal mercenary?”

“Right. That man, he could use any armament we developed with ease. When Morpheus caught wind of this, he tried to get as many Crest-bearers he could find, and we figured out how to control Palmira Armaments that way. But, there just weren’t enough Crest-bearers.

That’s when the Alcrest was developed.”

“With the power of the Alcrest, we could conquer all the neighboring countries and become one... But, he kept researching the Crest and Palmira to an extreme extent, continuing to hunt those Crest-bearers down...”

“Those soldiers steadfastly traveled to many places in the kingdom, to find those Crest-bearers. In the end, they found a certain woman in Toledo. But, the woman’s husband protested for her, and when the soldiers rushed in... At that moment, something happened. We don’t know what, but all the soldiers simply disappeared. At almost the same time, Rieubane suddenly became what it is today - this strange, closed off world.”

The road ahead was lined with mildew as the footsteps of the three rang off the walls. A mild wind blew from up ahead.

“At the moment when the soldiers were about to take the woman away from Toledo, a huge bird of gold emerged from nowhere, as if to punish our empire.” Orladin spoke, shaking his head grimly.

“They say that wherever Crest-bearers are, misfortune falls around them. Why those soldiers disappeared, I’m sure it has to be that. But, there must’ve been another reason why the empire closed off like that. Morpheus just keeps researching on and on without end, and this is the result of it all.”

It felt as if the darkness became more and more stifling in the path ahead. The path sloped down, with a gradual curve. A strange, goopy thing fell from the ceiling once, but Darius melted it fast away with a fireball before a battle could really break out.

“Man, if you weren’t here, we’d have a lot more on our hands right now.”

Orladin gave a hearty smile to Darius. The road ahead whipped louder with the wind, and the exit to a much wider area could finally be seen. Down from a dazzling cliff top, a huge structure that stretched far and wide.



Alayna @taptroupe · Oct 29, 2020



HEAVY BREATHING THAT WHICH WAS SEEN IN THE CIRCLE TIME



if you wanna read the tumblr version it's here lol

- “eyyy darius, you got some new clothes i see! nice!”
- “tell me how you know my name, now.”
- “didn’t i tell you, you told me! or maybe... uh, how do i know your name... anyways!”
- “why don’t you trust me, darius? :< what will it take? oh, you can try to hit me, that’ll deepen our bond! here, just hit me. you can use your weapon. but don’t hit me too hard, i’ll die!”
- darius will not hit krysalis which is an improvement from hurting old men and nature. character development!
- “not gonna hit me? ahhh darius, you’re such a good person!”

last time we talked, darius and the gang left the royal shrine and went back to the castle. that’s a while ago! they went back to the castle

krysalis is tagging along, as per her funny banter last episode. no one quite likes her. when she asks where they’re going it’s like:

- “Hey, where’re we going?”
- Krysalis’ question was ignored by the rest.
- “Heyy, why won’t you tell me!! Horrible! Ho-ri-ble, you know I’m giving it my all to help you guys out and stuff!”
- “Shut up.”

i hate you motherfuckers

and as they were following a path made by a cute critter, they made it to a clearing where the critters gathered up in a monstrous pile and oh shit boss fig -

Trandin appears and kills the critter pile with a single blow. REST IN PIECES IT MADE ME SO SAD



they couldn’t stay any longer so they hightailed it the fuck out of there but trandin would not relent. he kept chasing them and some shit happened and krysalis just FLEW over to trandin and told him to stop stop, be a good boy and listen to your mother. no one could quite hear it, and the bird hugged trandin tightly and that’s the last we see of them for now.

da da da onto the coliseum~ my heart was pounding the whole night~ up until 4:30 AM~

The Coliseum, and the chance reunion that surpassed time

Music to play along: [YouTube](#) I Saw It In A Circle Evergrace OST

Notes: Here's where things start to flesh out in terms of writing. Because I only care about Sharline.

nothing of real importance happened at first. they took a gondola to the coliseum which was interesting. it had been there since the time of the first king and etc. orladin taught darius about type matchups because some monsters gain health if hit with a certain weapon. they decided to run run run until they reached the middle of the coliseum, and....

a wispy haze appeared. a yellow gold haze...

"something something d...arius.... down there.... m.... pheus..... and.... s.... lin..."

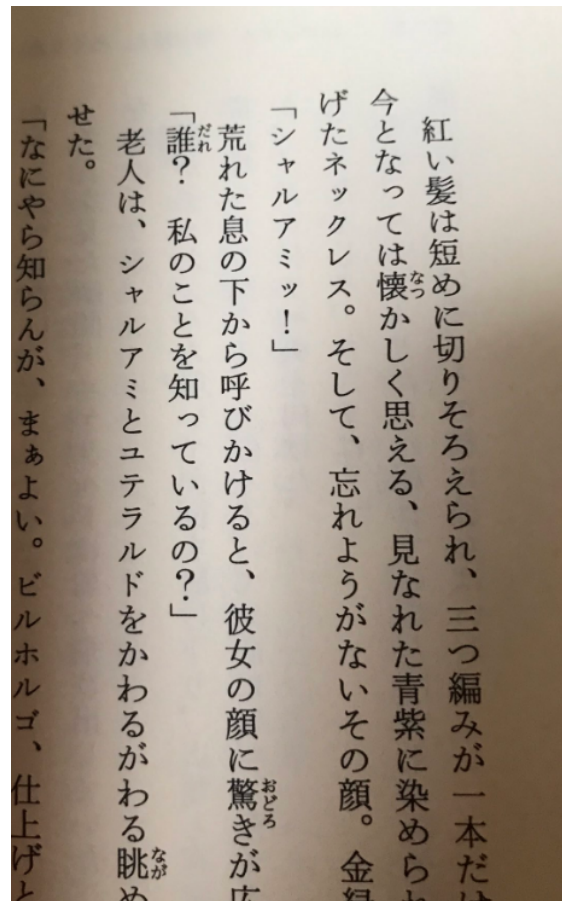
darius looks down. **HOLY SHIT**

IT'S SHARLINE



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!" AH ORLADIN FUCK YOU

"AS IF HE HAD SPRUNG WINGS, DARIUS LEAPS OVER THE COLISEUM BENCHES AS HE MADE HIS WAY DOWN TO THE PIT"



apparently sharline has green eyes. good thing i ignore that lol. but then...

the short cut red hair, with her braid tucked behind her left ear... a nostalgic feeling.... more holy scriptures thank you kaeko shimomura....

“Sharline!!”

At the sound of being called between ragged breaths, the girl looked up, a little stunned.

“Who are you? How do you know me?”

....



DID SHE LOSE HER MEMORIES?!

[she didn't]

so morpheus is like "wtf are you, oh well, trandin kill this man"

trandin prepped a nice ball of light at darius's direction but sharline got a word out

"No, don't! I don't know who you are, but still, you need to run! Hurry!"

but it's cool because darius has the warhammer and smacked the fuck out of the energy ball and probably hit it back at trandin. tennis

"What the?! Another Palmira soldier?"

darius dashed towards the old man, ready to strike, but there was a magic wall as i explain below and he bounced off of it. i meant to say, he literally somersaults from the recoil lol

"No.... Rather, it must be the Crest..."

[this line above used an outdated kanji to match how old morpheus is :D]

morpheus launches an arrow of light, but just by a hair's width was it blocked by a sword belonging to... Orladin! I think

"MORPHEUS!!"

orladin is here and madder than ever, he rams a sword into the magic invisible wall and while the strike is eaten up it makes a crack in it :D

"You damn traitor! I won't give up, not until you pay for destroying this country, for turning Lisumur into a cursed monster!"

"What did you say? The country's in ruins, and the princess is cursed? I had no idea about this!"

"Pushing all your responsibility away now? How shameless can you get!?"

[i'm sorry i can't translate morpheus's lines very well i have to skip this one but i can translate the next line no problem]

"Eyaa!!"

A girl's voice rang out alongside the sound of something hard smashed into pieces. Using the warhammer that Darius just had, the girl broke free of her cell [or wherever she's being restrained] and ran out while Morpheus had been distracted.

Stumbling to her feet, one of Rieubane's soldiers helped her get away. It must've been one of them that gave her that warhammer.

[sharline did it she destroyed the wall gj sharline]

anyways sharline is FREE WATCH OUT PEOPLE THE CATGIRL IS LOOSE and then morpheus launches something at her but at the moment something smashed his magic wall free "GOT HIM" orladin says but as he swings it missed as morpheus disappears :(

morpheus reappears in front of sharline and lights a metal-coloured ring around her even the hammer shone or something

"Yes! Now, Trandin, recapture the Cycle if you will!"

The small boy glided over, just above Sharline. She readied her warhammer, but not to fight. She looked up at the little boy, with his unchanging face, and started to talk slowly, calmly.

"Just calm down, Trandin. You'll make your mother... You'll make Sienna worry. You wanna see your mother again, don't you?"



[sharline calls sienna with a -san suffix but i kept it without in most of the translations sowwy]

“.....”

The boy kept quiet, and Sharline lowered her gaze.

“It’s impossible, he’ll never remember anything again. Now, Trandin, get her!”

awww shit a light appears in trandin’s hands, slowly building up, But. faster than the ball of light, a spiral of fire hits both him and morpheus!

“SHARLINE!!”

DARIUS CONGRATS YOU ATTACKED A CHILD AND ELDERLY MAN

sharline spun around to see darius. and then she grabbed his ear and scolded him for launching fireballs at babies. this never happened i’m just kidding

The silver-haired youth stood before Sharline, and the ball of light Trandin launched dissolved into thin air.

“Orladin! Take Sharline and get out of here!”

“No, we can finish off Morpheus right here and now!”

Orladin swung his sword at Morpheus, but he reappeared behind Sharline, who swung as well, and again he vanished.

“My goodness... Trandin, could you get rid of this bothersome little party?”

The little boy flew over to Orladin’s direction.

“Prince!”

At that moment, a purple pillar of light was aimed squarely at Orladin, but he was pushed out of the way in time by Bard. The light severely burned the soldier, easily piercing through his armor. He let out one final roar before collapsing to the ground, writhing in pain.

The boy looked down at the now lifeless man with a sour look. With a small fling of his arms, a strange small ball of light flew down to him. And as the light disappeared, so did the soldier’s body.. Only leaving a mysterious fragment of sorts.

“Bard.... Damn it, Morpheus, come out! Where are you?!”

RIP BARD 2000-2000 YOUR LOSS WAS FELT BY ME AND SO I MADE SURE YOUR DEATH WAS RECORDED IN EVERGRACE NOVEL TRANSLATION DOCUMENT SPECIFICALLY. THANK YOU SIR. BACK TO THE ORIGINAL TUMBLR TEXT NOW

darius tells orladin to take sharline and escape to somewhere safe while he fends off the monster thingy. so they get out, a bit to sharline’s complaints. mysterious that she wanted to stay and save the boy....

but they're safe and we get sharline back! yatta!!! speedrun tactics amazing. darius gets fucked and almost falls in battle because damn it's hard. trandin is also there just throwing balls of electricity after the other. he's close to giving up...

Sharline...

She hasn't changed a bit from those 13 years. I'll probably never know how that's possible, but it means she lived. And I got to see her again.

I was able to save her after all, huh...

...

...No, I didn't save her at all. I'm just running away if I die in this hellish kingdom of monsters. There's still someone out there who wants to capture her again.

There's no way I'm ending it.

Not yet.

BAD ASS MOMENT DARIUS KILLS THE ~~JADE GIANT~~ DRAWIDE AND SURVIVES. WOW GOOD MAN YOU DID IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! HE HAS A NEW SENSE OF PURPOSE!!!!!! NOW GET BACK TO THE GONDOLA THIS PLACE IS A FUCKED

"Are you okay?" Said the red haired girl, with a face of relief.

this girl is apprehensive to who you are and is probably creeped out that someone knows her name, but she still asks if you're okay. so... you should be nice, right, darius?

"Why... How are you here?"

[welcome to darius not knowing how to talk to sharline episode 1. it's really just a mess from here on out. i was so surprised. looking forward to heartwarming moments after all this time, and... they're like strangers again. also, great first words to say to spark a conversation after 13 years]

"Hey, now, what did you think of us? We wouldn't know where to go next without you, and we wouldn't abandon our partners behind like that - neither me or this girl would."

"But, Trandin... That child..."

Sharline looked towards the coliseum's center. Darius shook his head.

"He's gone... For now, probably. I think he'll probably return, or maybe we'll see him again."

"Please, don't kill him..."

"If we face him again, we'd probably have no choice but to."

"You just can't, that's Sienna's.... That's the son of the person who saved me. I have to protect him, no matter what!"

"That may be how you feel, but there's nothing we can do about it."

Sharline dropped her head for a moment, lips firmly shut. But, in a moment, she looked up again and faced Darius with renewed strength in her eyes.

“Even so, I’m saving that child.”

[i kinda got the order wrong and the below picture doesn't quite match the context anymore BUT I'M KEEPING IT BECAUSE I CAN. IF YOU WANT YOU CAN SEE THE END OF THE CHAPTER FOR A MORE ACCURATE IMAGE]



That ever stubborn Sharline. The girl who wouldn't back down one step when it came to speaking her mind against the men in the village. Nor the kind of person to run away from the incoming soldiers of Morea. She really was standing before him again.

“What're you smiling at?”

Darius was surprised to find himself smiling at her serious expression.

im love a headstrong onee-chan. anyhow

📺 Paper Mario Music - Nice To Meet You



Sharline joined the party! She has detailed knowledge of how to traverse the ice caverns as well as the Human Experimentation Lab. In battles, she wields a glowing sword or an archery bow. She's fearless and quick on her feet, sometimes interjecting when the other two guys talk about what to do next.

You can switch partners by pressing the start button on the ~~N64 Controller~~ the PS2.

blah blah blah they all decide to go to the tower, and thru that they take the gondola, get to some place, and decide to rest for a bit because they just went through a lot huh. darius spots another crystal pillar and decides to go shoppoooooooooing

At the shop that resided in the otherworldly crystal, the Palmira armaments and weapons almost drained of their energy were taken in for repairs, Darius decided to purchase a long spear for the prince, while Sharline stood before a table of goods with her hand on her chin.

"I think a set of armor and a weapon should be good enough for me."

Swiftly, Darius handed her the pouch of Palmira pieces.



[it could also be, darius calculated the amount of pieces she needed and took it from his waist pouch, however this isn't as funny and it's kinda unclear about this meaning]

bubububu they all go back to the normal world now. orladin was lightly napping on a bed. darius sat on a chair, tired out, but realized sharline was kinda staring at him.

"What is it?"

"...You, you're called Darius, right?" Sharline asked, hesitantly.

"I heard it from Orladin. And you knew my name, didn't you? The first time I saw you, I thought that... You kinda looked like the Darius I knew."

Approaching Darius, she took hold of his right hand, and tried to look under the leather that wrapped around it.

"....Hey. Just who are you, really?"

As Darius sat there, Sharline craned her neck, trying to get a good look under the wraps of his right hand.

A familiar feeling from somewhere, long ago.

But, that memory... Was it even long ago to her?

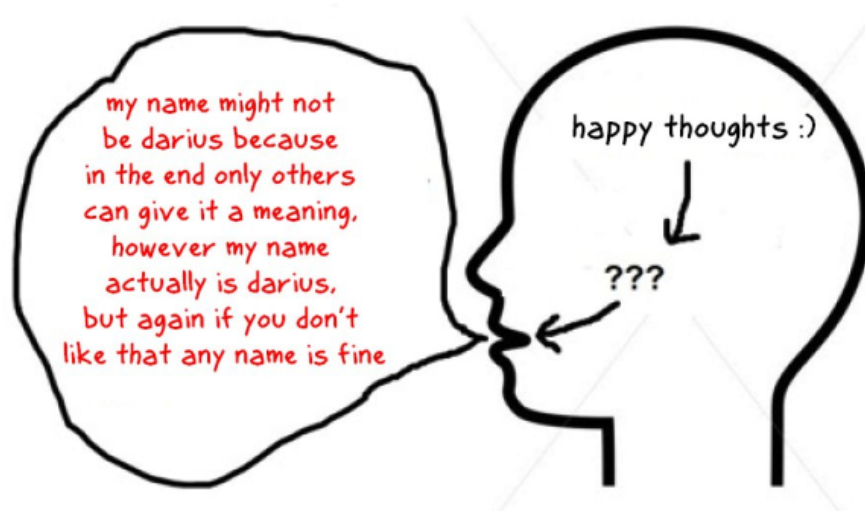
Darius shook off Sharline's hand.

in the most absolute disrespect, i forgot to mention darius has been using OMAE for sharline this whole time. even orladin has been using.. *spits on the pavement* kimi. this bothers her to the point where she's got to point it out.

- ~~“So... Darius, was your name?”~~ [don't worry about this line since i just said it earlier]
- “Who I am is up for you to decide.”
- “What?”
- “...If you don't believe in me, then my name wouldn't mean anything.”
- christ yute-kun chotto chuuni da ne

Sharline opened her mouth, ready to ask what he was going on about, but he already started to walk towards the crystal [or something] and it was responding to his presence by glowing a bit brighter. Still, Sharline was able to stop him [this is a lie idk it says she stopped someone's foot or that she stopped walking or maybe she put a foot in front of him idk IDK]

- “Well, stop calling me ‘you.’ I have a name, and it's Sharline.”
- “.....Okay.”
- “And what would you like to be called by?”
- “My name is Darius, but if you don't like that you can call me whatever you want.”
- “...Okay.”



Darius closed his eyes shut.

He didn't mean to talk like that. He was happy to see her again.

But while she hadn't changed a single bit, in the midst of the years and months, at least 13 years, he had become someone else entirely. Darius kept his mouth shut, as if a heavy lid.

To her, he was a stranger who just looked familiar. All because of the Crest...

And he could cause her misfortune yet again.

Darius sunk his face into his hands.

JKJKJJKJKJKJKJKJKJKJ OKAY SO. TLDR DARIUS AND ORLADIN AND SHARLINE
ESCAPE THE COLISEUM AND DARIUS IS JUST LIKE BBLBLBLBLBLBL OH MY GOD
IT'S SHARLINE BUT ALSO MJUST NOT BE CLOSE TO HER OR ELSE MISFORTUNE
WILL HAPPEN WWWLOLOLOL

that's all i got for now. that really did just sound like a deviantart journal

[BUT COME ON RIGHT?! THE GUY WHO JUST LOOKS KINDA LIKE YOUR CHILDHOOD
FRIEND HAS... THE SAME NAME.... KNOWS WHO YOU ARE.....
WTFTF?! IT SURE IS WEIRD NE]



to sum up coliseum chapter second half. it is this

Human Research Lab, the birthplace of the AI Crest

Music to play along: [📺 Evergrace OST - AI Crest \(In-Game Version\)](#)

Notes: nothing here homie

ice cave!

here is an incredibly tiny image of it from the evergrace wiki. so tiny



today's japanese word of the day is!

つらら!

it means icicles! darius climbs up to a higher level in order to knock some down. sharline is leading the way to the human experimentation lab but it seems the way she came couldn't be traversed again. so yea. smash those icicles

darius at this point is very reserved and staying away. orladin is okay i guess. uses kimi for sharline. i mentioned this before... i think lol. sharline is just like "ok i'm ignoring you all because i'm fast as hell and fearless. don't wanna traverse this icy bridge okay i'll go first cowards"

it's really neat to think about the route-only places in the game and now sharline and darius are travelling together! just makes me happy. i do wonder if this was what the devs envisioned, living out those not-rushed-launch-game hopes into the book.

more things happen. etc. etc. AH YES there's this scene lifted from the game, but in a different location. it's between orladin and darius:

- "Hey, what's up with you and her? You were so happy before, but now you're just avoidant and glum with her. You said you knew each other before, right?"
- "...I know her, but we're not friends."
- "So, enemies?"
- "No, I'm just... I've simply plagued her life."

[in the original text, he calls himself "i'm just a plague god. the line above was workshopped by my friend, erika :)]

Plague God. LOMOA i'm glad for once agetek went normal with this. this is a line of dialogue from the abandoned road in darius' route, but now it's here while sharline is up ahead and can't hear them. "I... I caused her misfortune" is the agetek bit

hmmmmmmmmmm.... if it was up to me, that's not hard enough. "I've only brought misfortune to her." then you got the "i'm nothing but this" and "misfortune part of it." but hey, that's not right darius! she

- ~~loves you~~
- ~~just doesn't know who the fuck you are~~
- is barely tolerating your chunnibyou cryptic talk

you know!

and then darius is being chased by ice frogs. sharline averts her eyes from the weird scene. and thinks to herself... (copy/pasted from my twiterererer)



Sharline stood behind the two, watching as the two chased frog-like creatures in the ice cavern, and focused her eyes on the silver-haired youth. Realizing he was being stared at, he looked up.

Cold eyes of amber. Sharline turned away with an uneasy premonition arising in her mind.

Darius.

The crest on his right hand was there, the one that the village children had bullied him for. Amber eyes, silver hair, his face, and the Crest... It was like a double of that little kid.

But Darius was a seven year old child.

There's no way the adult man before her eyes could be him.

this scene was so funny but also it was very enlightening to be able to hear what she's thinking for once. so YEAH, she's not lost her memories she's just having trouble understanding who this darius guy is, i guess teetering between "is this just a coincidence" or "did he really grow up that much"

serious sharamy kawaii. anyways they reach the human experimentation lab somehow, i forget how because it took me until they reached the timed button in the lab to realize they were there lol. sorry. i'm dumbass. that will be posted a,lter

To be Continued....

evergrace novel funtimes AT THE HUMAN EXPERIMENT LAB!
WOOOOHOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

first things first i am studpid i didn't even know they were there lol. it really took until they got there, got to the office, and sharline is talking about the big circular button that makes the gate go up



Button.

but whatever it's a thing. she's like "so yeah i'll press this button, because i'm the fastest, and you two get over there before the gate goes down and i should be able to make it too"

so. button pressed. sharline runs really fast up and down the stairs. but then a sticky noise catches her attention. it's a monster known as the.....

monster gente Cole yeah that was me so a

“Don’t thrash around! We’re getting you up to the second floor!”



Darius carried Sharline as if she was a sack of potatoes.

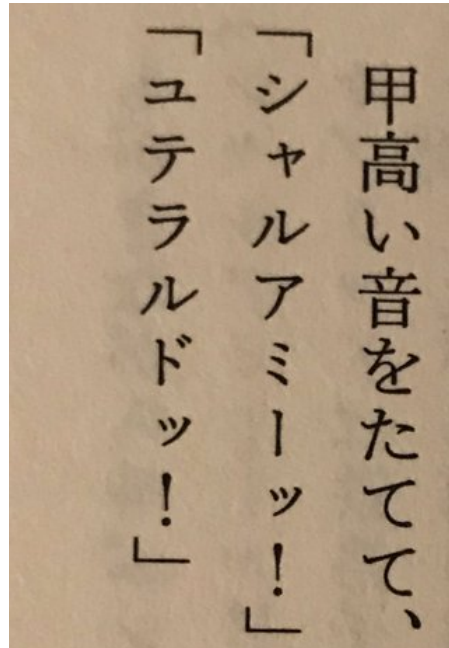
Sharline will remember this. (Friendship -10)

Imao. it was so amusing that's why i had to draw it. anyways they make it and stuff happens. luckily i don't think there was puzzle solving but my mind might have blanked out here. all i got to was the three getting to the Room With Sienna In It

the dudes are like ??? but sharline is like !!!

"I'm coming to save you, Sienna!" (wa suffix. alayna will remember this and die)

but she quickly realizes that's not sienna. the fake sienna places her hands on sharline's shoulders..... oh shit. and there's a ~Magic~ barrier or something. also iron grids that are stopping the others from saving her i guess



“SHARLINEEEEEEE!!”

“DARIUS!!!!!!!!!!!!”



SPONGEBOB!!!!!!!!!!!!

“MORPHEUS YOU BASTARD GIVE SHARLINE BACK”

something like that was said i think. anyways sienna gives sharline a great big mom hug of kidnapping and they disappear in a bright light. human experimentation lab wasn't very fun :(

Abandoned road, and Morpheus's test subject

Music to play along:

- ▶ Red Gale Evergrace OST
- ▶ Howl Evergrace OST

Notes: The first part of this chapter had me just talking about why Red Breeze is totally a damn stereotype. Sorry man, but... it sure is obvious as hell.

it's the combination of forever kingdom making me cry, starting japanese evergrace, and also reading the novel that stopped me from. well writing about the novel

we are now at abandoned road and it's hot and sweaty. for some reason we are here. there might have been some door at the human experimentation lab that led here so yadda yadda lava hot they gotta be careful

for some great foreshadowing they start talking about the legendary mercenary, red breeze, and how he did... legendary killing stuff. i forget.

the bigger point i wanted to mention here is that his visual design is 100% indigenous stereotypes, he looks like one of those designs you see in classic north american cartoons, but... it's evergrace. i mean, america and japan shared a lot of cartoons so i can see how those stereotypes were also shared, the whole feather spiel and nobility can be seen in plenty of manga and anime.

this really neat person i follow on twitter recently made a thread about indigenous appropriation in animanga. which you should totally go check out. it is very very informative!

there's also more i wanted to say about kota hoshino's inspiration for the evergrace OST, but i went into detail bout that on twitter so you can look there.

case in point: it's not some fantastical VGM popping out of the blue, he specifically said he was inspired by "ethnic" sounds and used a sample CD of "indigenous sounds" that was actually made. BY A WHITE GUY. appropriation upon appropriation, it's kinda wild man. so please bring that up if you wanna analyze the intense music that is evergrace ost. it's not just fever dream drugs, yeah i am picking apart a 20 year old game for its audio/visual stereotypes but it's just good to be aware of what makes up the games you love, i'd think.

i wanted to get that off my chest and write it up better than what i did on twitter so thanks tumblr dot cock. by the way darius turns into a god but this post is already long i'll do it next post

so yeah darius turns into a god

things happen... but like, unfortunately oldrainisnfoasdfn doesn't die here like in the game. he's just chugging along and they beat up t he fire spirit thing in the lava pit by putting in the Orbs and darius launches ice balls. epic they beat it. the thing turns into solid ground which makes a bridge BUT

because it stops the lava flow by being a bridge, i THINK it makes the lava overflow so they haul ass to the core of abandoned road. cue me being like "oh man will red breeze be there alive or turned into stone because sharline beat his ass oh man oh man"

well he was stone-ish. his description and the way the others referred to him were pretty rude, and his backstory involves torture which ties into the last post i made, he's just not a great character and coulda easily been something else. indigenous stereotypes. human torture. it's really not a good connotation to have game

krisalis pops up. hey bird milf what's up?

"Darius... the Crest... do you hate it? Are you scared of it? Has it brought you any... happiness? The most precious people to you were hurt... sad, isn't it?"

"..."

"yeah i fucking hate it. fuck you god. all because of this shi - "

red breeze: wakes up to give his two cents about how the crest affected him. i think he's kinda pissed at krisalis shit talking the crest. in the game he talks about prejudice for having the crest, that much was a good talk

krisalis miiight be saying here about how she hates the crest,

"No! I don't want anything else destroyed! I just wanted... a little bit more happiness..."

"I WILL BE THE ONE TO DESTROY THIS KINGDOM!" fight time

"Darius... Help me!"

"aight but you owe me one. now flutter off to safety"

it doesn't go well. darius vs man with double blade axe that i used for a good portion of my playthrough. he's really strong. darius is incapacitated for a moment, so oldisfojsdiofjdwsfjdlslf goes in for the HERO MOMENT

"I won't let you kill Darius."

"So, you're willing to sacrifice a team member like yourself?"

"That's right. Darius will be the one to defeat Morpheus."

aight. so red breeze calls upon the mother of all things to KILL THIS MAN. darius gets up for a bit but BAM HE'S FUCKING AXED IN THE SIDE DEEP. MAN IS DEAD LOAD YOUR GAME BUDDY

oldaboufsdfodsfoidsjif is busy pouring life elixers into his wound while krisalis is like "nooo darius no you're the only one who can do this noooooo if you don't get up you know sharline will die too please don't die noooooooooooooo"

"Please, don't leave us!"

DONT

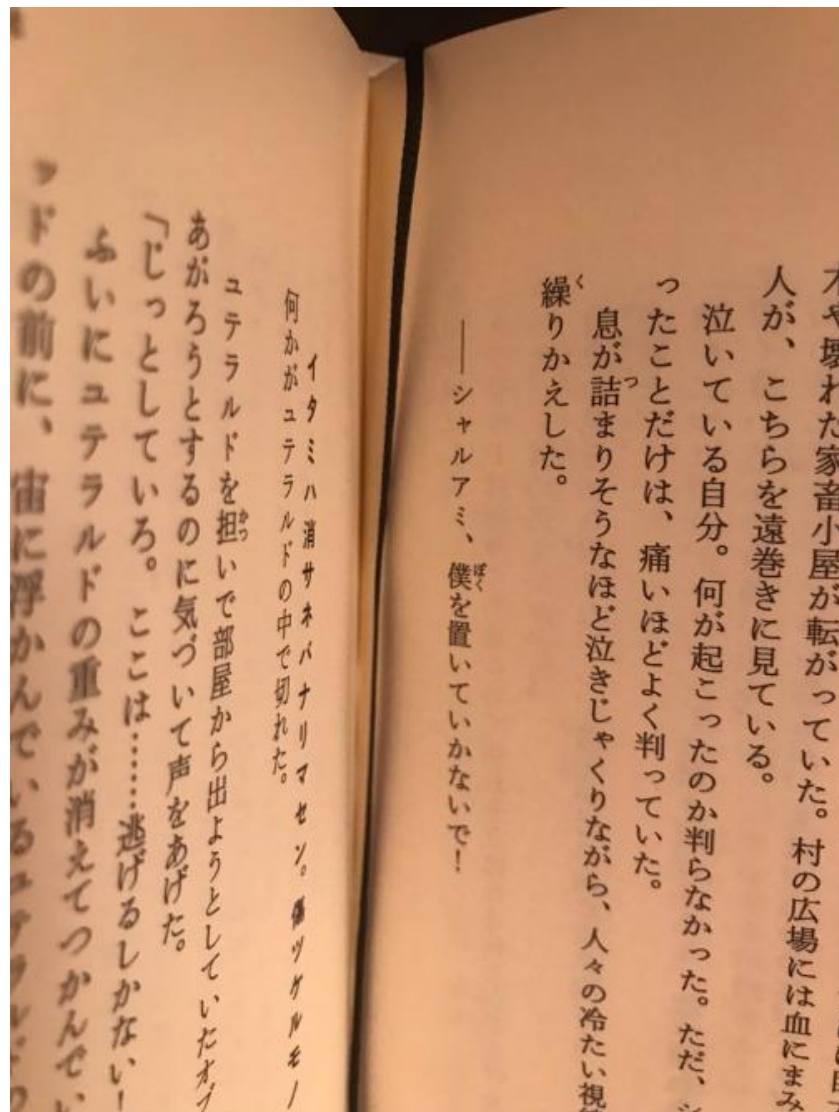
LEAVE

In the desolate village of Solta, the hollowed remains of my home were burning. Our sheds, our livestock, all ruined and destroyed. And there lay the bloodied, unmoving bodies of my parents. Amidst all the escaping villagers, I could only look from a far off road.

My small, crying self. I didn't know what was going on. But, I knew only that Sharline had disappeared, and that I could remember that pain well. I cried so hard I could barely breathe. And the villagers looked down at me with cold eyes.

Darius could only repeat it over and over.

— Sharline, don't leave me behind!



hey notice that parallel lol. um i just half halfed that right now with google translate but you get the feeling. that's what is important. anyways here's god

YOU MUST MAKE THE PAIN DISAPPEAR.

BEYOND THE WOUNDS THAT STIFLE YOU.

Something inside Darius snapped.

hi god! darius hovers above the ground. everyone is terrified. "GET AWAY" "IS THAT LIKE A PALMIRAACTION" (it is) BUT NO IT'S.. IT'S... OH GOD IT'S STARTING

gold light. fucked up shit. idk. red breeze is like

"So, you hear it too. Our Mother. But no matter, I will be the one to defeat you anyways!"

Darius looked at the man with bright golden eyes. and his brain jumps through a few hoops and is like

"I won't let you kill Sharline."

note: artist rendition of what darius looks like rn



bro we are talking about you right now. how did she even get into this talk. do you just have to talk about her every chance you got *shoves away my youtube discussion about evergrace and sharline i had like a few hours ago anyways*

bam bam fighting. people talking from the sidelines:

“So, is that the power that was used to destroy this kingdom?”

“Er? Uh, that’s...”

“It’s his Crest, isn’t it?”

“Ah! No, no it’s not... ish. Well, it’s not totally wrong, but... Well, Darius is wrong, but... well, he’s protecting us, so - AH FUCK”

rocks are falling. they’re fighting so hard shit is breaking down.

i think darius won this one. he’s floating and his eyes are glowing he’s basically super saiyan here. but it doesn’t last long. he collapses and the god powers are gone.

“HURRY OLDBAHAHBSBS GIVE HIM THE LIFE EXLIER”

“That... t-that power... That was the *Crest*?”

“He’s your ally! Stop being scared and save him! No, Darius, you can’t die here, you’re... you’re my...”

The bird gently stroked his hair with her wings.





“I’m sorry... I’m sorry, Darius...”

and they all collapsed. hoo. also yeah darius is dead and he goes to superhell. chapter end. the next one will fuck you up

Shadow Tower, a passage for souls of purification

Music to play along:  Red Gale Evergrace OST

Notes: evergrace novel caused me to physically distort my blankets from the Emotional Grip.

i'd like to thank saria, winterbro, and himeko for helping me figure out dialogue in this scene.
this was a hard hitting chapter and also got delayed cuz of school but here you go
SHARLINE I LOVE YOU    

cozy in bed time for

EVERGRACE NOVEL PART ????

WE ARE IN THE SHADOW TOWER!!!!!!

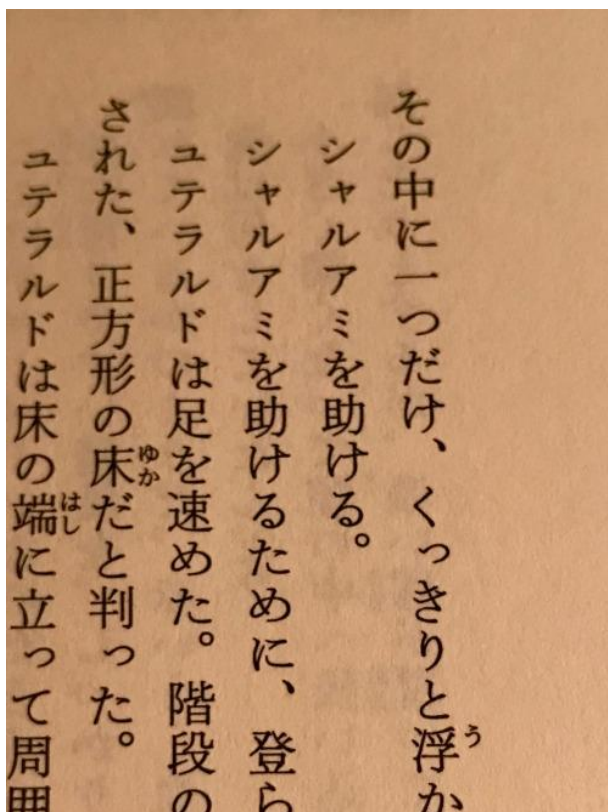
thats right baby four levels of monsters bridges and twisting paths and bosses and - huh?
the novel version is entirely different? oh damn

Shadow Tower - A Place for Purified Souls

somehow i don't really believe that. i had to spend a while beating this place like a week.
wasn't fun at all

so after he dies in the last update, we see darius walking up a long ass path of stairs. red stairs... maybe blood? is this even rieubane anymore?? how'd he get here??? but no matter what's going on he must continue going up. because...

heh lol. say the words darius!



There was only one thought that arose in his mind.

To save Sharline.

And to save her, he couldn't let a flight of stairs stop him.

Darius's footsteps hastened at the thought.

see, you can guess the context even if you don't get the language right. that's been me this whole book is just picking up on context around things.

[alayna originally let this go without translating it as a fun exercise to see if people could deduce translation from context, a big part in learning languages. no one took her exercise up.]

he climbs the stairs up and up. suddenly krysalis can be heard.. the last things she said about apologizing, he can hear it.

"i'm sorry. so sorry..."

"? krysalis, are you there? where am i?"

"darius, has the crest brought you happiness? do you hate it? are you afraid? it's hurt the most precious people to you, isn't that sad?"

"huh?"

"what will you do with the crest?"

"oy, can you hear what i'm even saying?"

"I truly hate the Crest. Nothing good has come out of it... It would be better if all Crest bearers just disappeared."

krysalis disappears. 🙄

"just where am i...?"

hi merida! who appears suddenly on a bridge to say it's the tower of shadows. the place of purification. cool thank you.

"hi merida. so where's sharline" (how would she know this)

"i only know what the big mother says. i will now walk away and you should follow me. also what will you do, You who is afraid of the Crest?"

"?! i'm.. i'm not afraid of the Crest, I only hate it!"

"On the tower's top... to the voice... please..."

bye. oh hey a new set of stairs. um the king is here for a moment but he disappears. darius asks him for keys to unlock the door but he's stubborn and dies i guess. bye.

ORLADIN IS HERE NOW.

"hey we can't kill morpheus. let's go."

"hey orladin, where (????) is (????) sharline (?????how would he know????????)"

"it doesn't matter, i'm following morpheus now."

“hey! aren’t you worried about sharline?!”

“whatever. you’re the one who can handle palmira weapons. you have the crest, you can go ahead. just shut up”

“bitch” (i said this)

“hurry up, here comes another one of morpheus’ henchmen!”

??? but darius has no weapons on him? what’s he gonna do?

“does it matter? can’t crest bearers just destroy whoever they want? show me that power! kill and destroy it all!”

suddenly the floor under him turns into autumn grass. also uh orladin transforms into red breeze and starts talking some more

this part’s really good but i need sleep so i’ll wake up and do it

[i probably went to school or something at this time. remember for half of this i was like in my fourth year of university]

WAKE UP IT’S TIME FOR THE SECOND FIRST HALF OF SHADOW TOWER

(i apologize for the delay because school is kinda beating my ass. i’ve also decided to split this into half for dramatic importance so just take the rest of shadow tower’s first half)

the recap.... orladin turned into red breeze and now he is challenging darius to a fight or something. YEAH WE ARE GOING AGAIN ROUND TWO FIGHT

“i will destroy this kingdom!” he said this before right. but darius, for once, is like

“you... you can’t...”

“oh so you’re gonna tell me what to do huh crest bearer. so your heart ISN’T full of hatred and anger huh is that it?”

“look at the lives you’ve already taken.”

The Morea soldiers I’ve killed. The Billiana forest that I wanted nothing more than to burn to the ground.

YEAH FINALLY DAR LOOK UPON YOUR SINS. NO ONE WANTED TO JOIN THE ARMY EXCEPT YOU YOU KNOW. RUYAN WOULDVE LEFT IF HE DIDNT ADMIRE YOU SO MUCH I KNOW IT. ANYWAYS

“I... for my own reasons... i killed.... i destroyed them.... I.... did...”

“And for that reason, I will destroy you!”

“No, Sharline is still..!”

“ARE YOU STILL TALKING?”

—

fight fight fight fight fight. it's just abit though, darius is suddenly reminded of the searing pain in his side from their prior fight. suddenly the floor changes into ivy and castle-like places, and oldfjkdsklf appears again. this time, lisumur is here too

orfjsldflsdj and lisumur are together for this moment. they talk about stuff and like... the ivy whispers to darius... saying some fucked up shit he was told as a child.

“he’s killing the livestock” or “stay away from us” or “we can kill people if we use this child” or “he really is a god of death”

“get away from my child!”

it’s really fucked up thinking about how he was told this as a kid.

“SHUT UP, SHUT UP! DO YOU THINK I LIKE HAVING THE CREST!? I DON’T WANT THIS THING EITHER!!”

.

.

Then, why don’t you just remove it?

.

.

Darius looks at the mercenary’s dirtied axe.

.

.

I should’ve done this earlier.

Far, far earlier.

From the moment I was born, I should’ve just cut it off. So then at least I wouldn’t have made Sharline disappear.

but then. red breeze disappears. and orladin and lisumur scream in pain as arrows hit them. they’re gone too.

and the scene changes to that of a hill.

with a red-haired woman standing on top.

HERE WE GO GUYS

"S... Sharline...!"

"Don't get any closer! Are you going to make me disappear again?!"

"...?"

"You've done it once before. You could very well do it again."

"...No, I... I didn't mean to..."

"Are you saying it was an accident? You ACCIDENTALLY tried to kill me?"

An arrow flies past Darius' head, grazing his hair.

"What're you dodging for? I don't have all day, you know."

Spitting words of hate, Sharline readied her bow once more.

"...Right, back then you thought you could use that innocent cute kid act, getting away with anything you wanted?"

(NOTE this line was incredibly workshopped by me and my friend who speaks japanese. we went from thinking sharline is calling herself cute, to sharline sarcastically saying darius thought he was so cute. it's a hard nuance. thank you saria.)

[i also had another interpretation 5 months later. "You spoiled little kid, you thought you could get away with it back then, huh?"]

Darius couldn't find the words to speak. Another arrow shot into his shoulder, and he clenched his teeth.

"Well? Do you want to send me away again?"

With an unchanged face, she prepared another arrow.

"S... Sharline... I never meant to do it... I was just so scared, and I..."

"Oh, you were scared to die? So was I."

ARROW TO THE FLANK. PAINFUL BREATHS. SHARLINE WHAT ARE YOU DOING

"You, because YOU didn't want to die, you thought I should go instead? Leaving me at death's door like that?"

"Sharline, forgive me..."

he staggered a bit and had to use a hand on the ground to keep from falling. but the cold voice kept on going.

"How will you make up for it?"

"...I..."

here we go sharline **banger tweet**



I'd like to kill you. Just like that day.

So, can I? Can I kill you, Darius?

.....

Darius raised his head and got up staggeredly. His chest tightened as his quiet eyes focused on Sharline.

"I owe my life to you, Sharline.

...You can do whatever you want."

He took one last look at the hate in Sharline's face and closed his eyes.

I'm okay with being killed. As long as it's by Sharline.

That's all I ever did to her, anyways.

Heh, when I put it like that, it makes me feel oddly better...

Something hot's running down my face.

...Tears?

I haven't cried once since the day Sharline disappeared from the village.

It's okay.

This is okay.

These were Darius' last thoughts.

But someone's voice reverberated.

—"That girl" in front of you, is that really "the girl" YOU know? Would she ever say those kinda things?

Hey, Darius.

*In that old fairy tale I told you, the Crest was a gift from God to protect her children, right?
It was like, a good luck charm.*

But I don't believe in such a story.

You know, Darius, if that Crest ever gives you trouble, I'll be there to save you.

...

Hey now, don't make such a face!

No matter what anyone else thinks, you're the one who's suffered the most from the Crest.

*No matter what misfortune happens, it's never your fault. People who blame it on your
Crest aren't all that good themselves, you know?*

No matter what happens, I'll always believe in you, Darius.

So that's why you don't have to worry.

Believe in me.



A nostalgic voice.

A gentle voice.

Sharline's voice.

But, her eyes were so full of anger, and the powers of my Crest... What I did to her...

I thought she'd hate me for it.

—Please, believe in my heart, the heart that believes in you.

—Now open your eyes, and face the truth! Hurry!

📺 Shoko Nakagawa - Sorairo Days

what? it's fitting isn't it? www. gains owes royalties to fromsoft bro. i almost choked up here reading this part, it really got my heart bad but i could feel the tension melt away hearing sharline's voice in my head, with her story and her kind words saving me. it was an excellent part.

[i also am unsure if the lines in dash are sharline speaking, or perhaps... krisalis?]

reposting emotional grip that i literally had during this part



BUT WAIT THEN WHO IS THIS SHADOW SHARLINE?!

When Darius opened his eyes, Sharline was still there, arrow at the ready. But, just beyond her figure was a strange shadow.

Darius hastily ran from the hill. An arrow followed soon after him. (also he pulls out the arrow from his flank idk where that is. midriff maybe)

“Why are you running away?!”

darius pulls out the arrow from his shoulder OUCH man that hurts. he continues to get away from the FALSE sharline. yea she’s probably like a palmira doll but she can sure shoot well she just shot four more arrows. but it’s fine!

sharline disappears and so does the scenery. now we hear morpheus laughing like a old man!

blah blah blah “the cycle will be the key to opening this world again! kk see ya later at the real tower”

darius hops over shit and sees a bright light. again he hears that voice once more

—Everything that is good in life will always be preceded by hardships.

oh the bright light is more like a cool glowing tree with endless branches that reach the heavens. the fruit is golden like the eyes of a dragon. but anyways CHECK OUT THE COOL SWORD AT THE TRUNK


Golden handle and sparkling crimson and emerald stones. A milky white sword with a gentle blue glow.

YEAH BITCH

MOONLIGHT FUCKING SWORD BABY

it wasn’t too hard to lift. and when he did whoa a grey fruit of light appeared and then whoa he saw a room in that fruit and then darius passed out. WOO BABY SHADOW FUCKING TOWER!!!!!!!!!!

A tower piercing the sky, forming the core of Billiana Fruit

Music to play along:  Evergrace OST - Piercing the Heavens (In-Game Version)

Notes: This took me five months to finish due to school. This is also where the chapter translations become page for page.

chapter 10 of the evergrace novel the one where darius wakes up on a nice bed for once and then everything goes TO THE SHITS!!!!!!

so after all that wild stuff from last chapter... the fucked up shadow tower hell, the sharline who wanted to kill darius, and then the moonlight greatsword.....

he sees a white ceiling at first.

darius wakes up to the sounds of birds chirping. he's in a large bed with white sheets, feeling quite light and comfortable. a light breeze and light touches his face. it comes from the small window fluttering with beige curtains. there's even a fancy (fit for an aristocrat) yellow chair, embroidered and made for one person to sit on. a polished mirror and lamp completes the room, painted with a thin red colour.

how cozy! even the grave injuries of the last chapter and before then (you know the huge axe that sunk into his side) seem to have all healed. that's great. a faint medicinal smell hits his nose. this bed and pillow is stuff with wool. damn.... bro.... it's so cozy. "the fluffiness seemed to swallow darius up" or something like that. but he has to get out regardless.

"Where... am I?"

darius looks out the window. there's bluish rocky mountains and a cape overseeing a truly blue ocean. a blurry wall (hmm *is thinking*) seems to be at the horizon, and then a green sky above. he scans the rocky mountains a bit, and notices the royal shrine. enduring a bit of pain, he looked up to the sky - a tower seeming to reach the beyond the clouds and green skies, and into the heavens

no doubt about it

It's THE TOWER BABEY!!!!

 Evergrace OST - Piercing the Heavens (In-Game Version)

(shameless self plug. piercing the heavens my favourite song :) i uploaded it on youtube because the other video with the song has a audio hiccup. also check it out i made a better analysis of kota hoshino's indigenous inspirations of the OST as a whole)

"ah you've woken up? how's your injuries?"

hey oldbshdhsbb! he's alive and just opened the door a bit for darius. he motions him to come out of the room and into... another nice room! embroidery and desks and chairs and all that. even a window where a birdcage sits! yeah! there's a bird and cats here. how nice.

everyone's armor is laid out cleanly on a table.

"the master of this house mended it for you." oldbdjdhdhdbbd mentions as he plays with a cat. he gives a light knock on the nearby door.

"medina, he's up. what should we do?"

Now we introduce... Medina!!!! Compared to the game she's a lot more talkative and has a great helpful role. legit super power up here and i'm happy she got a big role in the novel. also i just drank a radler anyways here wawe go

so they go into the room and it's pretty colourful. medina is there. she wears a brown dress and has blonde hair. i'll paste an image of her from the twikia



MEDINA

sorry this doc was kinda empty if i just put in one image so i put in two



we love you WAIT THAT'S GREY!? anywaywws

"this woman saved us. so don't be rude zo" orlfkjdsI tells darius who is right behind him. medina gives an easygoing smile :)

"sorry about the mess. i have something to tell you all, but i know you're short on time so i'll get it all out quickly"

"you saved us?" Darius asks.

"Mhm. Oh, so you're Darius... You're the boy that Sharline talked about..."

"You know Sharline? Who are you?"

"I'm Medina... Morpheus' granddaughter." "WHAT"

"I'm... I have to give you an apology. To stop any more suffering of innocent lives at the hands of my grandfather (she uses ojii-sama btw), I told Sharline how to reach his secret laboratory." medina's eyes look down

"Sharline said that she had to save the woman named Sienna no matter what. Along with her, she also had a desire to save Trandin."

"What did Morpheus want to do with the Crest?"

"...My grandfather, he did such horrible things.... Because of my sake."

Medina rolled up the sleeves of her dress. iiii think there's an alcrest symbol on both of her arms bascailly.

"The reason I am alive before you two is because of the Alcrest. Without it, my body would quickly grow weak and die."

My grandfather sought out the Billiana trees for their power to make its surroundings flourish or suffer. That 'Power to manipulate life' must've been connected to that. Taking the sap of the tree to make Palmira to study, then seeing how the Crest manipulated Palmira, then from there...The Alcrest was born. With that Alcrest, it was like my body was reborn again."

Medina took a small breath, and continued.

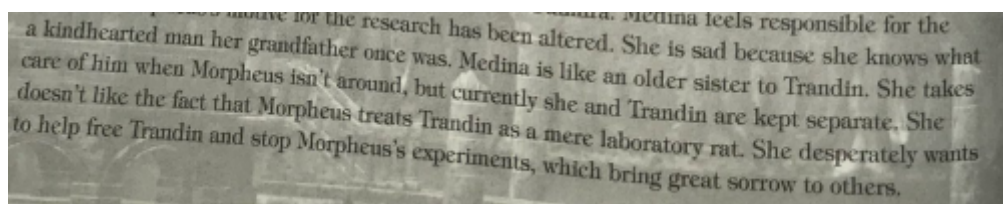
"...How happy it would be if that was the end of the story. But, because of this Alcrest, Trandin and his mother, Sienna, had to suffer so deeply..."

"Ahh, because Trandin has the Crest, that's why he..."

"Ah, no. He doesn't have a Crest..."

"For a while, he lived here with me. He was just... A perfectly normal and good child. He was so cheerful, he often chased my cats around, getting scratched in the process."

okay i stop here for a moment because this is so cute. imagining medina owning these cute cats and then trandin playing with them, is very sweet. you don't see this in the game because of a typo, but she treats him like a little brother. here's her proper bio from the prima guide kindly shared to me by my friend:



a kindhearted man her grandfather once was. Medina feels responsible for the care of him when Morpheus isn't around, but currently she and Trandin are kept separate. She doesn't like the fact that Morpheus treats Trandin as a mere laboratory rat. She desperately wants to help free Trandin and stop Morpheus's experiments, which bring great sorrow to others.

"Medina is like an older sister to Trandin. She takes care of him when Morpheus isn't around, but currently she and Trandin are kept separate. She doesn't like the fact that Morpheus treats Trandin as a mere laboratory rat. She desperately wants to help free Trandin and stop Morpheus' experiments, which bring great sorrow to others."

they're bros basically <:') cute cute, must draw art of that one day. trandin being fussed over by his mom and sister (s?) anyways i've sobered up now:

Medina's faced brightened up for a moment, but that smile quickly disappeared.

"But, in less than a month, my grandfather took him away. He said that "it was necessary, in order to bring out the Crest-branded Parent Bird..."

Hmm..... what a weird phrase. the crest-branded parent bird..... hmmmmm *is thinking*

"So you couldn't stop him?" darius asks kinda meanly. of course not bro. great. Medina's body seems to shrink as she puts her face in her hands.

"I couldn't do anything against my grandfather. If this Alcrest ceased to function, I would die just like that.

My grandfather, back then, he wouldn't have done these things, and I would've trusted in him, you know? But now, he's... with a snap of his fingers, I could be gone, just like that. It frightens me..."

"So that's why you sent Sharline up there."

"Yes. At first, I tried to stop her. It would be ridiculous for someone to scale the tower alone. But, she told me how she felt - how in her own village, there was a child with the Crest on his right hand. How because of that Crest, he had suffered things that he didn't deserve, and she was powerless to protect him.

She told me how upon seeing Trandin and the Alcrest on his right hand... Those painful thoughts of not being able to protect Darius rose up again. She had to save Sienna and Trandin, that was her one desire."

"I couldn't stop her. As the days pass with no change, my mind can't help but think that I led her to her death... Maybe if I'd tried harder, I could have stopped her... I regret it so much now..."

...

"You don't have to regret it."

"No matter how many times you tried to stop her, Sharline would have gone ahead anyways."

Medina raised her head, jolted back to reality with Darius' words. The silver-haired youth looked at her with a gentle gaze.

"That's just the kind of person she is."

"...Thank you." Medina's face softened ever so slightly.





"No matter how many times you tried to stop her, Sharline cannot be stopped, even by a moving train."

Medina raised her head, jolted back to reality with Darius' words. The silver-haired youth looked at her with a gentle gaze.

"She literally repels trains."

"...Thank... you?" Medina's face contorted ever so slightly.

^^^ THE ABOVE NEVER HAPPENED JUST WANTED A FUNNY THING TO START THIS POST

now it is time for the second part of chapter 10. let's go no breaks no stops here

[alayna split this originally that's why there's a seemingly random break here]

after the nice touching moment of DARIUS IS ABLE TO KINDLY TALK TO WOMEN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT ARC he asks so hey do you know where sharline and the sienna and trandin are

"They should be at the highest point of the tower, where my grandfather is. There's many paths up this tower, and many have never seen a human life travel through - [basically the top of the tower is the best place to watch anything happen]"

“okayyy cool, can you tell us how to get up?”

“yes but could you wait a moment? i wanna get all healed up” medina says. there’s a reference to “light of life” here and i forget if that’s a thing in evergrace. i’m guessing it’s just a HP restoring light idk and medina needs to be there

“? is it a really difficult path?”

“No, no that... After letting Sharline go like that, I just can’t stop regretting it... I’d like to go along with you two.”

MEDINA JOINS THE PARTY!

Silence from the dudes lol. Until Oldsfjlsdfjlkdsjf pipes up:

“Aren’t you afraid of Morpheus?” (uses kimi here again. why)

“True, but.. I’ll be fine as long as we reach the laboratory. I need to go up, there’s things that I have always wanted to say [aka tell my grandfather]...” Medina looked at them with serious eyes.

—

As they left the warmth of Medina’s living spaces, the cold passages of the tower pervaded their bodies. The rocks that shaped the pathways and rooms were all made of a certain blue-greenish stone. hmmm.... sounds like tower upper, but it can’t be because of a scene later. here goes

“This is a one-way path, isn’t it...”

“This path? Was there anyone else supposed to be here?”

“The Legendary Mercenary, after we were defeated by him, there was a man that saved us.”
< orladin says this

“Ah right, about that... What happened to Red Breeze? After his axe sunk into me... What happened?” < darius is saying this. a worrying thought suddenly spreads throughout his body

“I saw waves of golden light... I think. Someone... someone cried out to stop, and then... I.... i... What happened after that...?”

“After you suffered that near-death blow by Red Breeze, some unknown man swooped in and saved all of us after we finished him off. That’s all there is to it.”

a tense feeling fills the air.... darius tries hard to recall that, but is cut off by um, i think orladin again

“Don’t think about it any further. That’s over now.”

FORESHADOWING

“ya know, this guy you’re talking about kinda reminds me of a “Demon,” yeah!”

:O says darius. "You know what a "Demon" is?"

"Demon... I've heard of it before, yes. There are books regarding the Crest research in the library up ahead, I read them before [more or less]., Would you like to go there? I didn't tell Sharline about it, but it might be of interest to you."

the path there has traces of people's belongings but everything is overgrown by trees and grass. medina explains that a long time ago, morpheus' researcher peoples lived here, this is where she was fused with the alcrest and palmira etc etc uhhhhhhhhh THIS STUFF WILL BE ADDED WHEN I HAVE TIME IT'S JUST MORE TOWER LORE ABOUT HER LIFE AND SUCH

[jk at this point i'll probably have novel scans check it yourself if you like]

they descend a stairway and medina mentions a lot of monsters. but if they stay by her it's fine! scary!

"for some reason monsters just appear out of nowhere here, and it's not my grandfather's doing. people have been hurt in the past due to this, but i'm not particularly scared because these clothes seem to repel them with magic."

"even with that reason, I don't really get it. these monsters must be morpheus's doing, somehow..."

this bit was pretty hard to understand but suddenly medina gets a bit sad and he's like

"ah, shit, i didn't mean to say that it was just a guess" LOL ODLFJKSDFJD NOW IT'S YOUR CURSE TO NOT TALK TO WOMEN PROPERLY

"No, no... The royal family, my grandfather and I never saw with them eye to eye. Like we were enemies. But for what we've done, I wonder if we can ever be forgiven by your family..."

they keep walking. they come across that monster that darius fought so long ago trying to save the old king. he and olfdksdf ready their swords, but medina is like NO WORRIES. AND SHE'S RIGHT. IT'S FINE IT DOESN'T FIGHT THEM. WILD!

they reach a switch that medina mentions has to be hit with tree palmira. just like the game! she hits it and bam they make it to the library

now i have to be honest. this part is really good if you wanna analyze evergrace lore. i'm gonna be heavy on machine translation though and be pretty thorough. that will come tomorrow though i'm sleepy

.....

THREE MONTHS LATER I'M BACK LOL

[it's true. that's why this took months to do]

they entered the library, door closes behind them, medina walks towards a certain bookshelf. i'm not sure what book she picks out, but it's about the green moon and half days? that's one

bit of evergrace lore i haven't written down the moon stuff. they open it up, it's full of notes, and gestures for darius to read or something. but he shakes his head cuz,

"for me, the language of rieubane is ancient now. I can't read this."

so orladin reads it instead. it's a letter between royalty or something, and he notices something.

"what's this? 'our empire is in a state of survival. because of our research of the crest and creation of the demon, we've become trapped here. furthermore, the monsters spawned from the demon has killed many of our empire's people.' ahh, this is a writing from the previous king, when the demon was just thought of as some joke."

"wait, there's a footnote.

'Demon - what us nobles have been calling the demon, is a sort of incarnation born from someone with the crest [that's what we think]. when the destruction of toledo occurred, it was a woman with the crest who transformed, her body glowing yellow, and it was reported that she'd taken a shape resembling a bird.

running experiments on other crest holders, they gained physical strength and a transformation of their body as well.'

man this footnote's long there's still more [orladin says this lmao]

'a footnote on the day of the purple moon - as penned by morpheus, this transformation will be called Forrimification."

you know..... forrim is krisalis's name in japanese.... so..... krisalization might be a nice way to translate it. krisalistication? demonification is something like what agetec used.

sooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo..... the name..... should be enough to make anyone jump at the lore right? so here's darius now

"krisalis?! did you say that the process of becoming a demon is called krisalistication?!"

medina raised her head at darius's sudden outburst. it was as if darius was looking out into space, eyes shadowed, but somehow he is looking at orladin too okay

"um... what do you mean?"

"krisalis is the name of the golden bird that's been accompanying us this whole time."

orladin replies. oh maybe they're just looking at each other with shock. darius does this with his fist as he continues on



“krisalis... she told me she wanted to defeat the demon, did she mean she wanted to kill herself? no... she must've meant something else...”

orladin pipes in with something i don't understand. something like “you know there's other demons born from other crest bearers maybe”

“then, maybe the legendary mercenary was the demon? but krisalis said i'd be able to return to my own world if i defeated the demon... we defeated him, yet... was that a lie?”

“why'd you have to trust that monster?”

“she's saved us so many times before.” [yeah i guess i can't remember an instance of her really saving their ass but she's provided lots of help hasn't she?]

“i think she's just been using you, zo”

darius glared seriously at orladin.

“orladin. what's wrong with you? what's so hard to understand about that?”

orladin was still giving a funny, probably untrusting expression here because darius could see right through his shit. in the words of twewy. TRUST YOUR PARTNER

“If you can't believe in me, then you can just stay here with Medina.”

“What?!”

“Leading an army, you would probably know how dangerous it can be if there's conflict within the soldiers. If we defeat Morpheus, there might be a way to change the princess back to normal. And if you don't want to believe in me, well...”

you know when i first read this i remember darius being more serious sounding than how i just translated it. i'm not sure if he's faltering here, trying to lead orladin to his own conclusions, or something... but i do like how he's learning to trust. you see, this chapter is all about darius levelling up in his human relationships and i'm very proud of him. anyways here's orladin getting pissed off

but as he gets pissed at what darius says, he takes it in and swallows his anger. speaking slowly, he starts:

“me, stay here by myself? staying back is reserved for cowards like the king and that one solider. [don't forget the dude who stayed behind at the shrine lol] I can't use palmira armaments. if monsters attack, i'm done for...”

you... you're my last trump card. i don't have anything else.”

“so you trust me?”

“guess i have to.”

[darius should've hooked up with novel orladin. solves everything about orladin with one swoop - game orladin is a pedo, and novel orladin is probably incestuous. if they got together.... everything would be at peace. sadly masanori takeuchi saved gay men for enchanted arms

for clarification, orladin is canonly attracted to sharline in the game. he's like in his 30s in the game as well. sharline is 16. Yeah. yeah]

darius's expression softened with an understanding nod.

"i'd rather be a mercenary than some bickering friend."



medina is just standing there confused. to add to that they ask her more stuff lol

"so, uh, do you know anything about krisalis?"

"nah, but lemme see..."

medina goes to a different bookshelf and picks out a book, flips through it to a certain page and stops. looking through it she closes it again

"it just says the same as the others. the transformation of crest bearers.... the destructive power of the crest..."

“but, what is the crest?”

medina looks through the book again, then another book, and finds the answer.

“Cycle - the way in which all things flow towards. the secretive source of the billiana fruit’s power is something we do not yet know. the fruit has no seeds, nor have there been reports of young or old growth trees, yet the trees increase in amount. they exist even in places where it should be impossible for trees to grow. Thus, the billiana trees exist outside the cycle.

However, there is an opinion that even billiana must have some sort of laws of creation and destruction.”

“Is anything written about Billiana, then? Anything in regards to people?”

“No, that’s all about Billiana. What do you mean?”

“Morpheus, he once called Sharline the cycle for some reason.”

“Sharline...? No, in regarding the Cycle’s information, there’s nothing about referring to particular people...”

“Is that so...”

“Anything else you’d like to know?”

Darius shook his head, and as did Orladin. and sooooooooooooooooooooo

THEY LEFT

FINALLY THEY GOT OUT OF THE LIBRARY AFTER THREE MONTHS

I’M FREE

📺 evergrace novel chapter 10 part 3

i even made an animated visual this time!

but this kinda spoils the later part of the chapter so please enjoy it once you reach the part in my tumblr post. thank you. also warning this is pretty fucked up and violent and has slight implications of asphyxiation maybe

“So, Morpheus is up there, right?”

“Yes. We’ll be taking a gondola from near here, and then climb a stairway to get to him.”

“Guess it would be tiring to walk the whole way.”

“[something someting] it’s a normal stairway, but it goes up this hollowed out tower, and many parts of this tower are still untouched [think this was mentioned over in the second part in fact]”

“And Morpheus is at the very top?”

“Yes.”

“Man, he must really enjoy that God complex.”

“I’m not sure about that... The Tower’s peak is the closest to the outside world, after all. The Cycle...”

As soon as the word “Cycle” left her mouth, she gasped and looked at Darius.

[...or did Darius gasp, leading to Medina to stare at him?]

“If he were to free this world, captured by the Cycle... That’s certainly a fitting place to do it, wouldn’t it?”

“Are you saying my country’s been caught up by this Cycle?” of course orlaidnfids is saying this bit

“That’s what I remember hearing, but... I’m not sure of myself.”

welllll once they got down the stairs they saw the funny looking pillars of the soaring tower. you know the ones you brute force the fuck out of lol i sure did

As they descended to the end of the stairway, they came across some strange pillars. The four evenly spaced round pillars were of white, red, green, and blue. And at the wall nearby was a door that certainly wouldn’t be opened by hand.

“if it hasn’t changed, then this should work...”

Medina stood near the colourless pillar, and like she had hit the leaf relief, fired palmira actions at the coloured pillars from her arm. [must be her alcrest powers]

Red fire Palmira. Green leaf palmira. Blue Ice Palmira.

Then all the lights turned off, including the colourless pillar. And once more, Medina launched leaf palmira at the green pillar, turning it on again. And the colourless pillar turned green tooooooooooooo..... AND THE DOOR OPENED WOW EVERGRACE WIKI GET YOUR WALKTRHOUGHS HERE LOL

“alright everyone get in and ride this bad boy”

medina ushered the two guys into the small room that opened up. there was a lever near the wall and she activated it, closing the door. with a small bump, the lights in the room dimmed, and started to move or something

“So this is... A gondola, huh?”

Darius asked without a shred of ill will, as he looked around the room. Medina couldn’t help but let out a small laugh.

“First time?”

“Not like that, but I mean... Rieubane is pretty amazing. We haven’t reached this kind of technology in the time period where I come from.”

"Time period?" orlaine and Medina both ask.

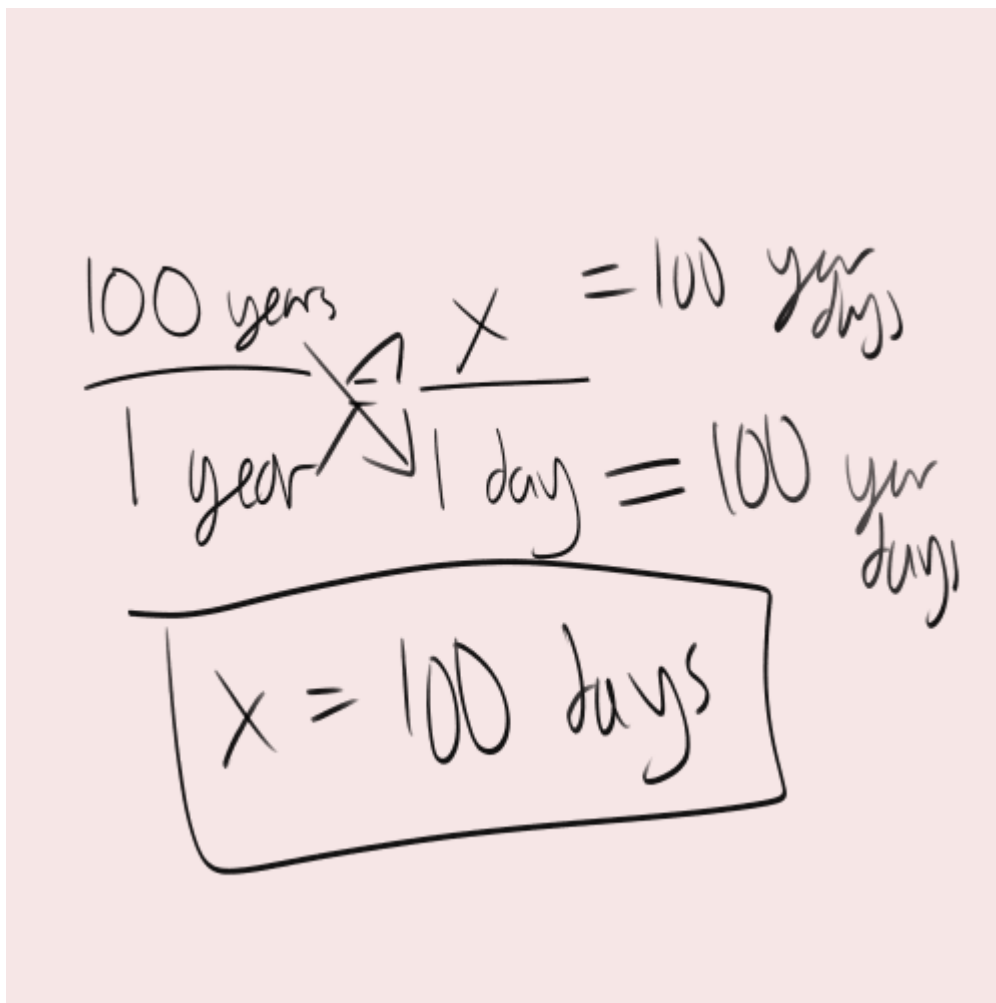
"Right, in the place where I come from... Rieubane's already been destroyed for 100 years now. How I'm here, how this can all still be here... I don't really understand it."

"Ah, Sharline did talk about the Darius who was a young boy... Perhaps time's been shifted between the outside and in here."

Medina continued on.

"In this closed country, perhaps we've been left behind by the passage of time."

"It's been a year since that incident that our country was blocked off, right? And you said that it's been a hundred years out here... So perhaps, a day here equals 100 days outside."



oralindade did the math. I did the math. This is his math. could it be? 100 days outside means 1 day inside?

if sharline and darius are separated by 13 years, then... that is 4745 days outside, but converted into rieubane days that's like, almost 50 days! but didn't the others say sharline was only there a few days ago?! not over a month...?!

"What did you say?! Wait, my friends... No, the starving villages and cities...!"

“Hey, hey, it’s just something I thought up! It’s just a guess.... Gah!”

The gondola stopped with a sudden, loud noise. The three were probably knocked to the ground, and Medina looked at the gondola with a worrying glance.

“This is the first time this has happened...”

Medina pulled the lever and opened the door to a dark room.

“looks like the plans have changed. it seems to have stopped lower than usual.”

“So, we can’t go up?”

“No, this is the highest point. We’ll walk from here.”

[i wonder what she meant by that? is this the appropriate destination? probably the “first time” bit was how it stopped suddenly perhaps.]

Darius stepped out and looked carefully around the room. No sign of monsters, but the sound of the wind outside the tower could be heard from far away. There was a door-like opening with an arch, with rubble strewn about.

“If we continue in from here, we’ll reach the beginning of the staircase.”

As Medina continued onward, she was stopped suddenly by Darius.

“Thanks, but... I have a bad feeling about this. You should walk behind us.”

this WHOLE bit about describing a room is so hard. i’m just gonna machine translate this and pray to god. it’s like a room.. it’s dusty... fanshaped with weird things everywhere..... experimentation tools like the room of the legendary mercenary... two doors split off, and there’s a tower with an iron grate near the centre of the room... idk there’s a light near the back, and an open door near there too. this is alot and i can’t even figure out where this is in the game. SORRY LOOK OKAY LOOK GUYS HERE’S

Going through the strange doorway, Darius follows a narrow dark path. He motions for orsdfjsdfds and Medina to stop as he peers through the iron grate. I can kinda understand the layout of the room now hahaha

A glowing bluewhite pillar stands in the middle of the room. There are female soldiers with blonde hair and purple skin standing side by side or something.



you know. them

beyond the female soliders was a transparent like wall, like the one they saw in the human laboratory. and beyond that wall was a girl sitting on her knees - a girl with red hair.

with a gasp, darius pulled back from the grate.

“darius, what’s wrong?”

orladin rushed to him, with quiet footsteps. darius replied back in an equally hushed tone.

“it’s sharline.”

“huh? just by herself?”

“It seems like it. she’s in a... strange tube while the soldiers stand around it.”

SHARLINE IN THE TUBE WEDNESDAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



now you may watch the video at the top of the page.

“that’s an experimental cell and transfer device that my grandfather made, and those are ‘ferugu’ patrolling around it - also made by my grandpappy”

orlsjfid looked around the room the three were in.

“hey, there’s a lever on this wall. will this open the grate?”

“i haven’t been here often, so i’m not sure...”

“how about this one..?”

darius notices another lever on the wall opposite.

“i really don’t know, but... perhaps if we both activate the levers, the grate might open up, then.”

“We’ll try it. I’ll be counting on you two.” Darius says, warhammer in hand, already facing the grates.

orladidifns stands near one of the levers, waiting. and asks:

“so.... how did morpheus activate this grate, when it takes two people?”

“i don’t think he’d really have a reason to come here. and if he did have something here, the transfer device would’ve taken sharline up to his experimental lab, anyhow.”

“i see...”

“i wonder if sienna is nearby?” “we’ll probably figure it out as we go up.”

oljskfjksf stands silently near the lever now.

“the first plan of action will be to rescue sharline, right?”

“right, otherwise she might be transferred away.”

[koitsu wa ugokan darou was hard to understand but i think that’s it. the alternative is that he’s referring to darius just moving on from this debacle if they didn’t wanna save sharline lol]

cranking the levers to a steady rhythm, the grate slowly rose up from its position, and darius followed the path briskly (worried that the grate might unexpectedly fall on him haha). and in no time at all, the female soldiers took notice of him and readied their swords.

darius kinda like. deflected some of their attacks because they’re pretty slow? might’ve dodged a few by ducking. ignoring their sluggish moves, darius turns and runs to where sharline is.

『Darius!』

i thought it was an interesting choice to have double quotes like that so i’m keeping it in and i’m lazy to figure out how to localize that emphasis for an english audience. bbut the following line makes sense as to why.

across the shimmering wall, a muffled voice could be heard. sharline hit the wall with her fists, trying to break free. darius shouted.

“Get back!”

seeing the warhammer in his hand, sharline backed up against the wall. with a tight grip, darius swung at the light wall, shattering it into pieces.

it was for a moment, but the shattered pieces seemed to glitter as they danced in the air.

At the moment, a heavy thud reverberated. A sound much like the dropping of a grate.

Followed by Medina’s cries.

“Darius, behind you!” Sharline shouted.

darius swung around and could notice the panicked faces of medina and olksjfsjf beyond the grates. olskfjlsfjlsf seemed to be shouting something that he couldn’t make out. and furthermore, the female soliders were getting up, ready to face him again.

But at that moment, Darius felt a familiar warmth against his back.

“I just knew you’d come to save me, Darius.”

Sharline smiled, with a smile wide enough to reach her ears.

A cold smile, as her arms dug into Darius’s neck.



“Under my master’s command, I stayed here all nice and put. Y’see, my master really wants to see the Crest up close... So why don’t you come with me?”

It was Sharline’s voice, yet what came out of her mouth wasn’t anything like Sharline at all.

[use of omae below]

“You... You’re.... What monster are you...?”

“I’m Sharline.”

It was like some kind of inhuman strength fought against Darius as he struggled to break free. A strange pattern emerged from the sparkling debris of the cage, marking the ground with its shape...

Darius hesitated for a moment before he closed his eyes shut, and struck Sharline’s torso with his elbow.

It was like hitting rock. She continued to press on.

>be me

>at the soaring tower

>bringing my comrade and a nice lady who lives here to the top floor

>sees my sis in a tube

>she’s super weird

>asked her specifically to get back so i wouldn’t accidentally hit her

>she’s free of the tube

>we get out, things are looking better

>she busts out the stranglehold

>mfw



just wanted to lighten the mood with a funny thing based off a tweet I've made once. back to work

He scrambled to find his knife, but his fingers only touched an empty sheath - a thought arose in Darius's frantic mind, that the knife must've fallen out during his battle with the Legendary Mercenary.

"You know, if you thrash around like that, it's only gonna be pain for you. Y'see, I've been given a single command, and that's to kill any naysayers who go against me. Sooo, if you don't come along with me, I'm just gonna tear you to bits like that!"

[lots of wa and yo and no and ne suffixes here. like much more than usual, and Sharline's speech pattern is really cheerful and interjected with bits of things. in short, Energetic Elder Sister Of Kill]

The female soldiers approached them, with sword in hand. Darius tried to swing them away with his warhammer, but a thin hand pulled his arm back with the strength of iron shackles.

"I just wanted to get you there quickly, safe and intact, you know... If you're not going to listen to me, I guess I can't expect you to act like a grownup either, huh?"

With a giggle and a smile, the monster that took on Sharline's shape tightened her grasp around Darius's neck.

Darius tried to use the momentum to lunge to the side, hoping to knock Sharline to the ground, but her feet would simply not leave the floor - as if planted to the ground.

[VIDEO REFERENCE OF WHAT THIS WOULD LOOK LIKE LOL](#)

"Oh yes, your friends are over there, aren't they? But you probably won't make it in time."

Using his one free hand, he tried to grab the sword of the nearby soldiers, but it was no use... Palmira's actions wouldn't work either, at such a close range...

Darius readied his warhammer as the female warrior swung down her sword. But, at that moment, something behind the warrior swung and struck it, sending the warrior flying.

Behind that warrior, in front of where the grates were, was a strange figure cloaked in black armor with a large knife.

All Sharline could let out was an "Eh?"

Darius, shaking free of her momentarily slack arms, plunges the sword into her, channeling Palmira's power into the blade. Though the attack landed, he feels a dull impact at the tip of the sword, and the recoil sends him back. His armor makes sparks against the ground, and his back is er.... the skin peels off his back, it probably really hurts that's kinda a lot of detail novel

But with the power of luck, Darius pushes the sword in deeper, and finishes the monster off. Sharline staggers backwards, shrieking some noise that could never come from a human...

you know i don't actually get the intricacies of this bit here and i'm here to write about darius and sharline being best friends not to see them beat each other to death so i'm freeballing it. contact me if this pisses you off somehow

darius lands a hit with the warhammer to her collarbones, her red hair seems to fly, and sharline crashes into a white pillar and falls. it was as if the red hair fell out in bundles, skin like porcelain and i'm not digging how she's described as white skin and thin arms at all but this bit at least it implies it's porcelain BECAUSE SHARLINE'S SKIN IS CRACKING AND PEELING OFF

it was like reddish-brown sand scattered and spilled to the ground, like a leather pouch deflated on the ground. and as if a dust of white fog, sharline's clothes and the mountain of sand it rested on... all disappeared....

My God. Fucked Up Bit. this is going out because it's already plenty long. DAMN



Darius got up, teeth grit, and faced the man who stood among the fallen warriors.

A well trained body covered with armor.

Aside from red ornaments, entirely in black - and whatever clothes could be seen underneath, a grassy colour.

His hair couldn't be seen underneath his helmet, but instead a rough face tanned by the sun. Brown eyes, with hidden strength reflected within.

And then, a huge scar across his cheek.

The counteroffensives of Morea.

"You.... YOU!"

Bitter, painful memories came back to Darius's mind upon seeing the man from his nightmares appear in front of him again.

He swung his sword, once, twice, three times, but the man would not retaliate. He retreated backwards, out of the room, but Darius leapt forward to strike.

"Darius, what are you doing?!"

Orlsjfldjf, still at the lever, dropped it and positioned himself behind Darius - grabbing his arms and pinning it behind his back.



darius gets two wrestling moves performed on him this chapter LOLLOLOL

"This man rushed to me and Medina's safety! Without him, we wouldn't even be alive right now!"

"I don't care what he did! He's the bastard that killed my parents!"

"Bastard?" (the word used here is 仇, implying grudge, super hated enemy)

In a moment of confusion on ordsldrsj's side, Darius shook free of his restraint. Both his sword and his words were pointed at the man with rage.

"It wasn't just Sharline... You, you survived too!"

The counteroffensive of Morea shook his head.

"Darius of Solta, to you who bears the Crest. For killing your parents, though I desire to apologize, an apology would never make up for what I've done.

But, your father raised a knife to the neck of our Mother - and that is something we could not allow to happen."

"The Billiana forest?! You're telling me that those trees mean more than a person's life?!"

"That's right. For Billiana is the source of all life."

"I'm tired of hearing that bullshit!"

"We wanted your father to change his mind, at least for your sake, but he would not listen to our words..."

Somehow, the man he held a grudge against all these years... Was far different from the image he had created in his head. Darius felt his anger dissipate, and what arose was confusion.

"But... Why... Why would you save the son of the man you killed? I... I don't understand..."

"Our mother's enemy was your father and your father only. But, what I had done to your mother... Was my grave error."

("omae no haha made te ni kakete shimatta koto" is kinda like "what i did by my hands concerning your mother" also implying it was a mistake. kinda vague but probably on purpose. they know what happened. it was axe)

"Then.... Then you should've just killed me back then, too!"

".....We couldn't. Our rules dictate that a Crestbearer must never face the edge of a blade. But, to leave you alive would leave you with nothing but pure hate. Yet at the same time, to kill you... Would result in punishment for myself."

"....."

"I have committed a sin I must atone for. At that time, that girl who stood in front of me, and to the you that stands in front of me now, I will protect you both."

"Sharline, too?"

"She sacrificed herself in place of my sin.

Darius, until that girl's safety is guaranteed, this life of mine is yours to use as you see fit."

"How do I know I can trust you?"

The man stepped in front of Darius. He raised the sword Darius held to his throat.

"My name is Ralbadora. I can only offer this oath and my life, with the Mother of All Things as witness. To Darius and Sharline, I promise to protect you both until this life of mine is extinguished.

Darius, my life is now in your hands. You may do what you wish."

Ralbadora stared firmly at Darius with a long silence. From the (very stiff) back, Orladin lets go of Darius's shoulder, to Medina raises her disapproval.

"My prince, what are you doing? Don't tell me you're not going to stop them, are you?"

"If it's a sacred oath like that, there's nothing that people like us can do."

The blond haired youth took a step back and watched the two quiet men closely. Medina watched with a tight lip, but shook her head as words of incredulousness suddenly burst from her mouth.

"No... Killing each other isn't.... Darius, don't do it! If... Yes, if Sharline were here, she'd tell you to stop it too!"

The cold, frozen expression on Darius's face (and probably body too) slowly disappeared.

Turning into one of intensity. And as he clenched his teeth, he slowly...

Lowered his sword down.

"Ralbadora, until we reunite with Sharline, I'll let you live. But if you even dare direct your sword at me, I WILL kill you without mercy."

Ralbadora nodded.

"For that much I am already grateful. I swear on this oath to never forget it."

As soon as the tension in the room slackened for a moment, Darius's wounds came back to remind him of his battle, and let out a small grunt of pain. Orladin helped to keep him steady.

"These injuries will take some time to heal. Let's rest here for a bit."

"No, we can't afford to rest here... It could be a trap, and I'm sure Morpheus already knows we're here."

"That could be true, but, your..." Orladin looks to Medina.

"...Are there any other weird contraptions up there?"

"Not really. Between the teleporter to the secret lab, and the stairway upwards, you shouldn't get lost or anything..."

"Okay, then you should stay here."

"Wait, but there's just a little bit left..."

"No. [i don't wanna translate this but i think orladin is implying in the nicest way that she's a burden and could be easily used for any trap morpheus has lying around, which is mean and i wish medina would stay but that's how the cookie crumbles. sigh]"

Medina looks to Darius and Ralbadora, who silently seem to agree with what Orladin said.

"...I understand. I'll go back, then."

"I will accompany you to the gondola."

Said Ralbadora, who stood beside her. Medina gives a smile of appreciation, and goes with him. As her back shrinks into the distance, she suddenly stops and turns around.

"Prince Orladin, Darius... Do you think we can meet again?"



Darius could only frown. Orladin nodded, and started to speak in a happier tone.

"We'll do our best, so that we may hopefully do just that."

Medina gave a faint smile, and soon she and Ralbadora disappeared from view.



RIP MEDINA WE NEVER SAW HER AGAIN 2000-2000

but ;___; i'm happy this novel gave medina a better role than that of the game. i quite appreciate her, sickly yet determined. she really does have a life of her own. to you medina, who accompanied this whole chapter with intellect and kindness, who wanted to talk to your grandfather, who wished the safety of trandin and sharline.. Well.

ANYWAYS

As Medina's profile disappeared, the smile on Orladin's face disappeared. A sullen face resurfaced as he took a small pin from his leather bag on his belt. He handed a life elixir off to Darius, to which he finished in one breath. A warm strength returned to him, clearing away the pain of his injuries. Finally, he could breathe a long sigh of relief.

He gave a nod of thanks to himself, but noticed that he was frustrated - biting his lips, even.

"...Orladin, is there anything wrong? At all?"

"Just disgusted in myself."

Sitting upon a pile of junk, he couldn't help but punch [doesn't say what but let's say he punched himself LOL jk probably just punched his open hand]

jk it's his open hand ya

“Why, why couldn’t we have stopped Morpheus before all this... We knew he was up to something, we should’ve known that, and if we took action, I wouldn’t have lost everything... If I hadn’t been wrapped up in myself, then... I’m just disgusted.”

“...You’re not a time traveller, Orladin. I don’t think normal people could’ve predicted something like this.”

Completely healed of his injuries, Darius sat down on the floor of the room, and [rubbed his right belt. i’m serious. i don’t know what this means. he does have a bag on that side but uh. idk]

[I finally figured it out.]

Darius sat down on the floor of the room, and rubbed the leather that was always firmly wrapped around his right hand.

“It’s like how I lost Sharline, and what I did after that. Like how Medina wants her humanity back, and what Morpheus is doing. I think I understand it now.

Somehow, life is all about picking up the pieces of what others did. Or your own. Kinda like ass wiping.”

“Ass wiping, huh...”

[full disclosure the idiom is shirinugu, which means to clean up a mess usually others but literally it’s ass cleaning so yeah. it’s also used jokingly in the beginning of the novel which is probably where darius decides to use it too but REALLY DARIUS. IF YOU’RE SAYING EVERYTHING YOU DID IS LIKE EXPLOSIVE SHITS OR SOMETHING IS SHARLINE LIKE A TOILET PLUNGER]

Upon hearing Darius’s anecdote, Orladin laughed.

“Lots of people run away at the sight of shit, huh? ...Well, myself included, I’ve run away from many things. Even with all my willpower now, it’s barely keeping me from running.”

Taking a breath, Orladin sat quietly for a bit, before looking down slightly as he spoke again.

“Darius, I feel like I can trust you. You really are my last resort against Morpheus.”

“Yeah, yeah, I know. The mercenary thing and all, no worries, I get it.”

“....No, it’s not that. I’m just... Annoyed at myself [again lol] for having to rely on you, you and your... That thing...

I... Your... I’m afraid of the power your Crest has.”

“I know, I’ve heard that plenty of times. No matter how nice people are, they’ll always say that when they see it. Not really a lot of people who get along with Mister Plague here.”

“.....Darius. I told you a lie earlier.

The one who defeated the Legendary Mercenary... It was you.”

"What did you say? But he knocked me out, didn't he?"

"Yes, you were..." Orladin looked up at Darius with a straight face.

"But, after that, you got up... And started floating. And you started fighting again. And you won."

"I... I did?"

"Mhm. Krisalis somehow, she knew about it too. Even the Legendary Mercenary, who could break huge rocks with ease, he saw your power as equal to his..."

Crest... Krisalis... Demon... That power that surpassed normal humans... I was terrified. And so, i hid in your shadow, for what did I know?

Though I wanted to fight Morpheus, to use you instead...! It's all a mess."

Using the hidden power he didn't even know he had - and Krisalis knew this too. Is that why she followed him around?

Darius couldn't find any words to say, only looking aimlessly at the ground. A painfully long silence hung in the air... Until Orladin broke it again.

"Sorry, I.. I shouldn't have said that. I know you don't really want to think about your Crest, and all..."

"No, it's better that I know this." Darius looked down at his right hand, wrapped in a tight fist. Eyes of anger looking at his mark of anger.

"The fact that i didn't know before, and this thing led me around possessed, I'm sorry."



THEY SHOULD'VE BANGED NOT GONNA LIE ANYMORE

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps could be heard. A shadow from afar, Ralbadora's, approached the two silent men. Darius got up, and looked at Orladin.

"What should I do now?"

["Well.. You were the one who said that Morpheus knew where we are, and that he'd rush to our location immediately. I thought he said this i was so smart until google translate made it make more sense]

"Well, you're the one who brought us this far. We're going to fight Morpheus, aren't we? Though I don't have a shred of royal honour anymore, I can't guarantee I can protect you with that..."

Darius raised his right fist lightly. "All because of this scary thing, huh? Come on, decide like a proper royal, won't you?"

Orladin was silent for a moment more, then as if shaking something off, quickly got up from his spot.

"Of course I'll go along with you. And it's fine to forget about me in the middle of the battle - I'll try my best to protect you [or at least do something about it]"

ONE PAGE LEFT TO GO HOO. SORRY IF I BLUDGEONED EVERYTHING ORLADIN AND DARIUS SAID

As the three walked a short length, they found the next room to be narrow, long, and probably a storage room. The area contained another kind of transfer device like the previous one, though without a hint of Palmira energy and equally just as quiet.

THIS IS ALL JUST BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS. THERE'S LIKE NICE ENGRAVINGS ON THE WALL. THERE'S STAIRS THAT LEAD UP AND DOWN. DARIUS GOES UP WITHOUT LOOKING BACK. THE STAIRS TURN AND KEEP GOING UP. WHAT IS THIS EVEN LIKE THE OH MAYBE IT'S THE FINAL FLOOR BEFORE THE LAB YEAH MAYBE I KNOW THIS. THERE'S DOORS BUT NO ONE CARES

Aside from the difficult breathing coming from the three, the only thing they could hear was the wind that beat down on the stairways. Even the monsters were too afraid to attack, and as they reached the final steps, a door engraved with the Alcrest stood before them.

The door didn't seem to have a lever anywhere to open it. Darius curiously touched the door, to which its left and right sides opened...

The three men, who held onto their weapons tight, were greeted with green skies and a sea of clouds beneath. The wind whipped up the clouds into a haze of white. Beyond the door and before the green skies stood the tower with a rocky path leading to it, and at the path's end was a building... A small round building. And there were somemagicalthingsidklieacircularsdiskIDKBROIDK

"If it's as Medina said, then up ahead is Morpheus's secret lab."

okayok darius nodded and then walked briskly but the glowing letters on the DISK THING
IDK IT GLOWED SO ORLADIN WAS LIKE

“OH NO DARIUS BE CAREFUL YOU’RE GONNA BE BLOWN OFF”

so he grabs onto him but ralbadora just backs off he knows things apparently

“Medina said that this transport device will take us to the entrance of the lab. from there
there’s rooms for reference, etc, idk man, stuff for experiments, smaller rooms, idk, idk BRO
IDK”

“But, once we enter, it’s the rooms on the sides that’ll have the people we need to save.” IDK

ralbadora is quiet as orladin probably continues on what he needs to say

“There’ll probably be those monsters there protecting Morpheus, too. That kid from before.
So, Darius, we’ll have to depend on you. Ralbadora and I, we’ll rescue Sharline and Sienna
(who are on opposite sides i think as the game is). If we can’t find them in those rooms, then
we’ll rush to the back to find them. And once we do, we’re taking them back out to safety.

...Is that okay?”

The three men nodded, and entered the magic circle. The circle glowed with soft yellow light,
surrounding the men and TELEPORTED THEM OR SOMETHING

Also, fun fact, translating this chapter, Google Translate got something so wrong I had to
draw it out.



it was like, “sharline ate darius’s neck” or something but it was actually her fingers clawing into his neck, or maybe it was just her arms digging into his neck. AIM FOR THE JUGULAR CATGIRL SHARLINE

Secret Lab, the edge of the world, and the ceiling's door

Music to play along:

- ▶ Edge Of The World Evergrace OST
- ▶ Kota Hoshino - Evergrace II [PlayStation 2, 2001] (Awakened in the Forgotten Valley)
- ▶ EG Expression IV Parting With Shiera Evergrace OST

Notes: Prepare to feel every fucking emotion in your whole damn life.
a whole lot of rewriting went on with darius and sharline's reunion. because i am that picky bitch.



This would happen if darius did not push the two out of the way in the first four lines of this chapter. yes. lmao.

WILL DARIUS AND CO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS BATTLE ALIVE?! READ MORE NOW.
LOTS OF FUNNY ART WITHIN

they're teleported into the lab, which has a dome like ceiling, very spacious, and with markings engraved into the walls. the light of the magic circle fades away, and....

Immediately, Darius pushes the two out of the circle. Right in front of his eyes, a roaring flame crashes into the floor, making a wave of red. The fire dies down, revealing who other than that small child... Trandin.

And behind him, standing on a shadowy pillar was... ooohooo.... The Morpheus.... or something like that

"Hyohyohyo, you're here, you're here. I've been waiting..."

"Give Sharline back, now!"

"Hyohyo, seems like that little missus is very important to you, isn't she?"

Morpheus pointed a skinny finger to a corner of the room. [i swear the lab is circular]

Against the walls of the circular lab, several enclaves are sealed off with green glass. In one of them, a small, enclosed room where Sharline was held. Turning to face Darius, she seemed to be shouting something with all her might as she hit the green wall of the room over and over.

"Indeed, the Cycle was a big help, a great lab rat to aid in freeing this country from its binds. To let go of such a test subject, never!"

Sharline pointed to another room beside her. There was another woman, the same person who kidnapped her back at the Human Research Lab. The woman who saved Sharline's life - it must've been Sienna.

From behind Darius, Orladin and Ralbadora jumped forward. [there's a metaphor here for jumping as fast as rabbits, please imagine they wavedashed] Trandin's eyes seemed to dart from left to right, confronted by these two -

"DON'T LOOK AT THEM BUDDY. I'M DARIUS AND I'M GONNA FIGHT A CHILD WHO IS YOU. MEET YOUR NEW BULLY"

Darius readied his spear, forming a ball of ice palmira at its tip. Blasting it off, a countless number of shards were aimed at the young boy. But, a wall of light appeared, and it probably melted those shards or threw it back at darius, whatever works. Trandin, weakened temporarily by his epic flex of power, floats to Morpheus's side.

"How, Trandin, how can you already be at your limit? I gave you the ultimate weapon, the Alcrest! Did my readings on the Cycle go wrong somewhere.... Useless!"

Morpheus waved his cane, and ORLADIN JUST GETS HIT WITH A BLAST OF THUNDER. MAN WAS JUST STANDING THERE

"Prince Orladin, it's an honour that you came all this way. These two men are here to save these two ladies, but you're here for Princess Lisumur, aren't you? How about you look through this door, then?"

Hyohyo, what a nice man I am, aren't I? However, you're the one who left the princess behind in the castle - she must be in so much pain, don't you think? I'll let you meet her again."

“WHAT?!”

Morpheus, standing atop his shadowy pillar thing, raises a hand. A certain green wall in the back disappears, and out comes black, black ivy... Ivy that entwined the princess, slithering out...



“Orladin?”

An overflowing wave of black seemed to approach Orladin, who was standing with sword gripped tightly. Watching the whole spectacle, Morpheus simply laughed to himself full of satisfaction, as if dancing.

[the descrption of lisumur comes from the rieubane castle chapter. blonde long hair, blue eyes, a red dress..... i had to make her naked here at least i wouldn't be reminded of katia and get too horny to translate more LOL DON'T READ THIS DON'T READ THIS PART]

Suddenly ralbadora tries to hit morpheus while he's laughing, but the man in black armor is deflected by a shimmering wall as usual. An assortment of blades, all engraved with dragons, all trying to break through that protecting light wall. But only sparks of beautiful green light came out.

"You! There was another Palmira soldier you had at your disposal?"

Waving a cane, Morpheus launches a purple ball of energy as Ralbadora, but he's cool and just jumps backwards before opening his mouth to speak (coolly).

"I have neither the Crest nor the Alcrest. The Palmira soldier you (derogatory) speak of, it is not I (politely)"

"What? So you're another one graced by the Cycle?"

[note the usage of grace. heh. lol. yeah when they say evergrace the grace bit is meant to refer to "being chosen" or "favoured"]

"My power comes from The Mother of All Things. I do not know anything regarding this Cycle you speak of. For a senior of your age, I suggest you get off that platform for your own safety."

"Hyo, say that again! The one backing off will be you lot!"

From the ground underneath Morpheus, a ring of light appeared, hitting Ralbadora's feet. Well, obviously it's gonna hit his feet, right? From his platform, Morpheus raised a shaky finger.

"Hyohyo, now look well. To the little miss you call Sharline, keep your eyes glued!"

Darius was in the midst of the battle with Trandin, when suddenly a groan reverberating through the air made his body freeze up.



From beyond the green glass wall, Sharline was grasping her head, body hunched over in pain.

From atop this black platform, Morpheus raised a finger, and suddenly Sharline's body lifted from the floor - with the floor below her crumbling.

[you can probably guess the floor below her is probably you know, air]

"Don't move! If you do, this girl will..."

"Morpheus, you motherfu - URGH"

Trandin's ball of light hit Darius's chest, blasting him away. probably sending him flying, can never tell with tobasu

Orladin, who had given up cutting the ivy intertwining around him, seemed to be entranced into the pale arms of the princess.

Ralbadora, at least, could slowly approach Morpheus, letting out a weakened voice.

"That girl is important to us... As she is to your research, isn't it?"

"A good assumption, but no. I don't have any sentimentality for the little missus. Sure, Trandin wasn't the right research sample at all, but the use for that is all over now."

As Morpheus's finger danced, so did.... i'm sorry sharline..... So did Sharline's body, violently shaken around in midair. Ralbadora could only look on in anger, as Morpheus laughed loudly.

"And now, you can't even run away. Only pitting three people against me? Just foolish! For believing you could even try to oppose me, I suppose I'll just turn this girl into Palmira."



OY WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO!? SAY THAT AGAIN

Replying to @taptroupe

"TURNED INTO PALMIRA?!" Darius shouts.

I also shout. WHAT HOW CAN YOU TURN SHARLINE
INTO PALMIRA

7:46 PM · Dec 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App

SHARLINE IS NOT JUST SOME KIND OF FERTILIZER FOR YOU BASTARD. SHE IS A
CURED DELI MEAT - I MEAN SHE IS MY FRIEND

"TURN INTO PALMIRA?!" Darius groaned.

"Fascinating, isn't it? Whether it be Billiana fruit or a human, both can be transformed into
Palmira. If we'd known this sooner, there sure would've been a lot less waste."

The three could only watch as the cheerful Morpheus continued his monologue.

"Hyohyo, Trandin, fetch the Crest if you could please."

Trandin floated over to where Darius was, and landed in front of him. Extending his small
hands out, Darius tried to shield himself with his own arms.

"Hyohyo, a tug of war, is it?"

"Trandin, stop it!"

A spiral of yellow light appeared before Darius, unfurling itself to be none other than Krisalis.
She fluttered noisily at Trandin's emotionless face.

"Trandin, can you hear what I'm saying? It's me. Please, stop this."

"What in the.. You're... No, it couldn't be...?!"

Upon realizing Krisalis's appearance, Morpheus turned his head towards Sienna. Beyond
the wall, her head was slightly lowered, with her hands resting on her chest, unmoving.

"So if that's how you're going to be, one ridiculous thing after another... Then you're next!"

Morpheus raised his hand, and suddenly Sienna's body..... BENT BACKWARDS?!
JISHO!?!?

Krisalis let out a wail of pain.

".....Tr... an..... din.....!"

The bird-like shape disappeared, leaving nothing but a spiral of yellow light left in front of the
boy's eyes.

But, slowly, his eyes grew wide.

“Mom..... my?”

[no agetec, not mom, my. mommy]

As the yellow light gently embraced the boy, he turned around and looked at Morpheus. And he flew to him, as if an arrow flying from its bow.

Of course, the reflective wall around Morpheus repelled the boy, but only for a moment. In a flash of light, the wall came crashing down.

Morpheus, still focused on Sienna, was knocked down from his platform. As he tried to get up, a short sword swung by Ralbadora struck him.

“Trandin?! Wait, no, how, impossible..!”

A green, glowing sword with a polished tip plunged deep into the robes that Morpheus wore. His body leaned uncomfortably backwards, cane on the ground. This is basically old man dying i’m skipping this tiny portion.

The blood stained the robes black. Painful breaths, veiny arms, clawing over to Sienna’s wall.

“Why... Now... You’re going to destroy it all... Your very purpose.... Your reason to live.... Destruction...

Truly, you both are... A demon...”

A shaky finger pointed at Sienna, who kneeled down in her cell. She had a face of sadness, listening to Morpheus’s groans of pain, she tried to say something with nothing coming out.

With great effort, Morpheus raised his finger once more.

“Why.... Does this world.... have something.... like you.... a demon... exist? Everyone..... was..... alive.....”

“I’m sorry..... Even I..... Couldn’t do anything.... Not a single.....”

Sienna turned away.

“My..... To Medina, I.....”



With that final word, Morpheus's arm dropped to the ground.

And that was the last of Morpheus's strength.

A weak visage of Trandin, as if a puppet's string cut, crumbled to the floor with a heavy noise. Another cry could be heard too, from Orladin. Flowy, blonde hair trailed across the ground as lifeless as the black ivy that remained.

"Lisumur...? Lisumur, wake up!"

The ivy uncoiled around Orladin, and in his arms was the princess, eyes closed and unmoving.

Ralbadora climbed the black platform thingy and searched for a way to open the green glass doors. One by one, the walls disappeared. Darius ran to Sharline, who barely remained conscious.

"Sharline!"

Upon entering the small room - more like a cell - Darius was hit with a strong pain in his head. The pain felt like one attack after another, but through the pain he grabbed Sharline and hightailed it out of the room. The pain that could've made anyone vomit blood suddenly disappeared, as if it was never there to begin with.

In Darius's arms, Sharline weakly began to move.

"Dar.... ius...?"

As her vision came back into focus, a light returned to her eyes as soon as she saw him.

"You... You came all the way here?"

"Ah..."

"But, why....?"

"....."

".....I didn't want that day to happen again."

"That day?"

Somehow, Sharline felt a whole lot smaller than he remembered in his arms.

Her body, her hands, they had been protecting him. All this time.

Darius smiled gently, and he could see himself reflected in her eyes.

"Yes, that day."

Sharline cradled her hand around Darius's cheek, his eyes welled up with tears.



And in but a moment, she wrapped him into a hug, with Sharline pressing her face against Darius's shoulder.

"You're... That Darius... The one I know, aren't you?"

....Darius!"

"...It's all right now."



and it was all right. and that was the end of the evergrace novel everyone. yep it just ends at this lovely and touching hug between our beloved protagonists and totally nothing goes straight to hell on the next page no no no
ha

You flipped the page. Prepare to die now.



^ see above for the moment we last left off ^

Sharline lifted her head and looked around the room.

“Where’s Sienna? And, Trandin too...”

“As soon as Morpheus died, that kid, he... fell in battle. You’re talking about Sienna, the woman over there, right?”

Darius looked over to where Ralbadora was, having rescued Sienna. Sharline pulled away from Darius’s arms and quickly staggered over to her.

“Sienna, are you okay?!”

Upon hearing Sharline’s voice, Sienna raised her head slightly, and pointed at the nearby young boy. In a hoarse voice, she spoke.

[SHOUTOUT TO ALEX @FENNECBABE ON TWITTER AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO HELPED FOR THE VOCAB ASSISTANCE BECAUSE "got out of the middle of darius's arms" is kinda hard to translate with nuance]

“Tr... an... din...”

Sharline ran towards Trandin - but all of a sudden, a pillar of light descended upon the young boy. From the strange rock ceiling above, a golden-yellow light seemed to illuminate his lifeless body.

“No! I’m begging you, save him!”

As soon as those cries escaped Sienna’s voice, another pillar of golden light shot down right on her. Ralbadora outstretched a hand to her, but the light somehow made him recoil back in pain.

In the middle of the light, Trandin’s body began to float. He turned to face his right hand, branded with the Alcrest. In the light, the mark slowly faded away.

He raised his left arm. On the back of his small, pale hand...

„The mark of the Crest glowed into existence.

“Trandin...! His fate.... He’s been dragged into all this, too!”

Sienna, enveloped by the same light, begins to float. A light strikes her, letting out a cry of pain as the small body of Trandin ascends ever higher...

“Trandin, wait!”

Sharline tries to make her way over to him, but is struck by the same golden light - to which Darius catches her fall so it’s cool she won’t suffer a concussion

The golden-yellow light shone brighter, almost turning the young boy into a solid yellow figure of light. The same light shone off of Sienna - as the silhouette of a huge, golden bird rose above her.

“Sharline.... Darius....”

Sienna’s voice was wracked with sobs as she began to speak to the two.

“I selfishly dragged you all into this... I’m sorry. But, I... I didn’t want to destroy this world... Didn’t want... Trandin to be all by himself...”

“Sienna, what in the world’s going on? What’s happening?!”

The golden bird flapped her wings.

From somewhere far away, an unknown voice rang out - not to one’s ears, but reverberating throughout one’s head.

“To those who strike fear into this world, to those who have cut the thread of endless lives...

Now is the time of purification.

If you are to be my servant, the time is now to show your faith.

The Cycle must be closed.”

“Servant...? Is that... The voice of the Mother of All Things?!”

Ralbadora’s eyes widened.

Sienna, now transformed into Krisalis, flew towards the source of the light from the ceiling. Almost dissolving into the light, only a shadow of Sienna’s form seemed to twist and bend.

[i don’t know what that means. call it artistic license]

“No.... I... That.... Please, forgive me...!”

“Sienna!!”

Sharline jumped at Sienna’s figure, as if trying to pull her down from the light. Warhammer in hand, Darius struck the golden light that encased her. Only white sparks bounced off from the repeated blows, as if the attacks were swallowed up by the shining pillar.

[darius says uooooo here. i’m not doing that]

“Aaaaaaargh!”

Darius struck the wall with all of the strength his body could muster. A crack, shining white, burst forth from the impact.

“C’mon, Darius, just a little more!”

Sharline gripped Darius’s arms, and the two combined their strength into one more swing.



“Shar...line.. Dar...ius..”

Sienna whispered in a voice, muffled and weak.

The golden bird craned her head towards the two.

“I demand one more... Which one of you will offer yourself to me?”

Darius’s right hand, still wielding the warhammer, started to glow. The golden-yellow light of the Crest made everything in its vicinity shine. A wave of pain swept over Darius, suddenly making him let out a painful scream.

“Darius?!” Sharline yelled, suddenly noticing his distress.

“Get... away.... from me! Quickly!”

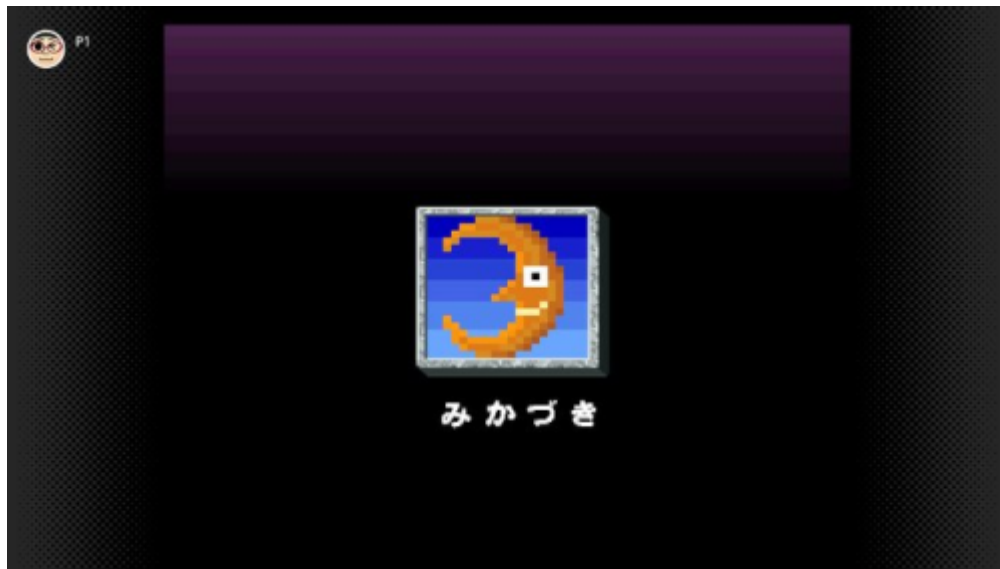
“Huh?” Sharline took a short breath in surprise, and furiously shook her head. She gripped Darius’s arms with all her strength.

“No, I won’t! Darius, you’re not gonna shoulder all the pain by yourself!”

“...Ralbadora! I’m leaving.... Sharline... to you...”

A third pillar of golden light entrapped Darius. At that moment, Sharline's eyes opened wide, and a gust of black wind swept through.

EVERYTHING GO TO HELL FOR MOMENT I TAKE A PICROSS BREAK



picross genuinely a healthy obsession i have right now. really fun

ate watermelon too i'm back now

okay so,

Darius felt himself rise above the ground as the light swallowed him up.

The golden bird flapped her wings.

“Even with this power, I cannot stay here much longer. Before everything returns to what it was before, we must fulfill the Cycle.”

In the solitary pillars of light, only Trandin seemed to smile. Slowly, smoothly, his body transfigured itself into that of a golden-yellow bird.

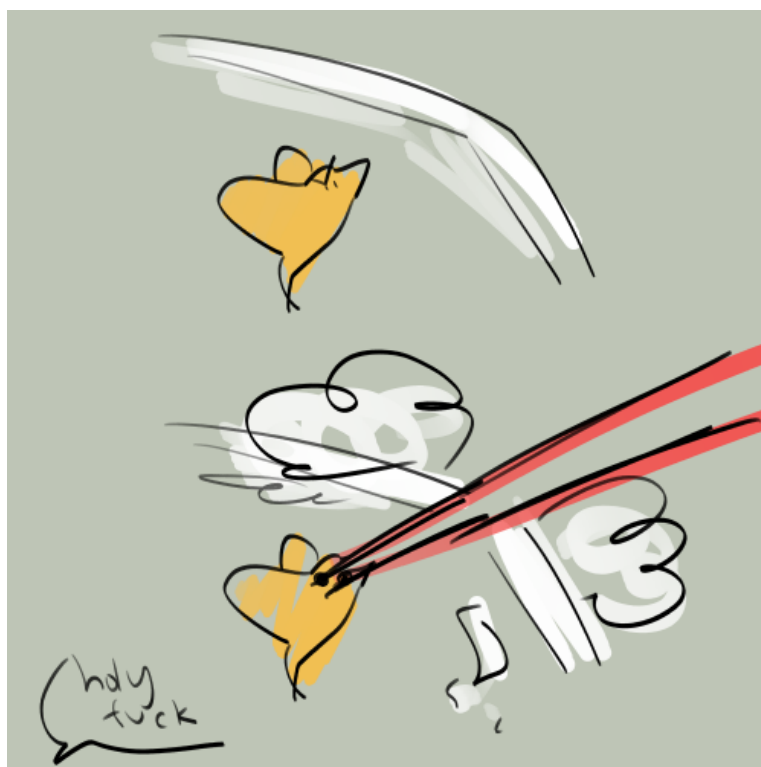
“Tr.... Trandin...!”

What remained of Sienna's barely human form disappeared, and a sparkling golden bird emerged from her chest.

[OKAY SO ALAYNA DIDN'T KNOW THE EXACT POINT WHEN SIENNA TURNED INTO KRISALIS FORM SO YOU MIGHT HEAR SIMILAR WORDING BEFORE AND AFTER THIS PART]



Though greatly weakened, with little power remaining, she flew upwards and upwards - seemingly undeterred by the ceiling of the lab.



As the glittering being reached the highest point of the ceiling, she blasted fire at the stonework, melting it as if it was fresh snow. Beyond the ceiling was that green sky with spiralling clouds, and beyond those clouds was... A tower that looked exactly the same as this tower, with its summit pointing towards Rieubane.

The bird faced that tower, the one that mysteriously looked so similar. From a hole in the sky [I THINK], a certain voice began to peak.

"Look here. The connection has already been cut. Soon, all will fall from that branch. Before then, all must be purified and returned into nothing."

The golden bird - big, but powerless against the enormous voice, shook her head.

"I... I don't want Trandin... to disappear."

The large bird - Sienna, raised her face, glittering yet all at once weak, continued to speak.

"Please, change this world back to what it was! I didn't... I didn't mean for it to all happen like this!"

"Once the Cycle has started, it is impossible to turn things back into what it was before. There is only forward, even for the lives that have already passed.

You must fulfill my demands, Crestbearer."

"Hold on, don't destroy a single damn thing yet! What is the Cycle? Just what the hell are you?!"

Darius shouted, as he noisily glittered with golden light.

"The beginning of I. The Cycle swallows all life and death, what comes after death is the Cycle that brings life anew."

"What does that have to do with any of us.... With any of us Crestbearers?"

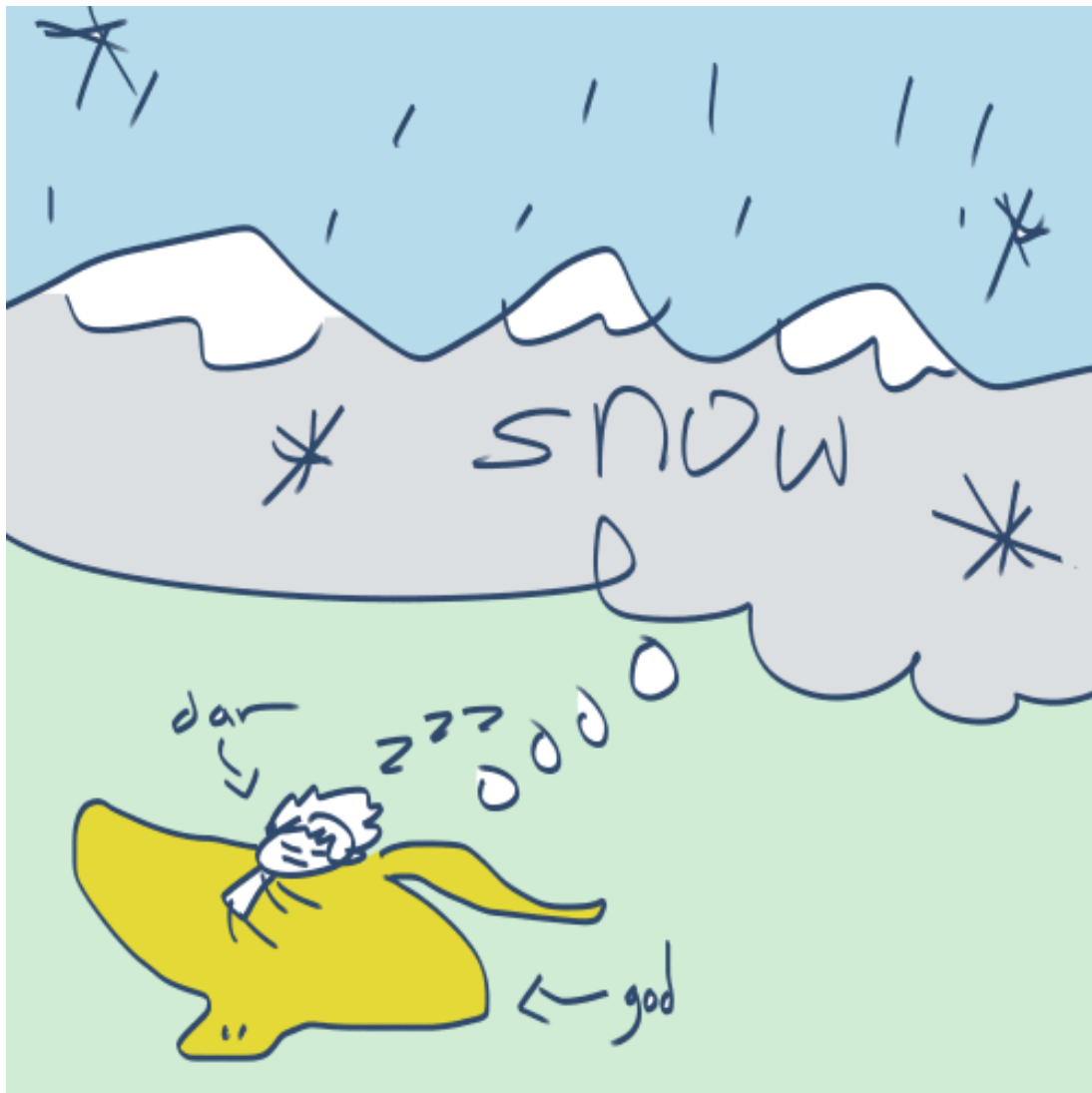
"I will show you the story of one Cycle."

She descended towards the glowing Darius. As a dazzling flash made Darius close his eyes, he found himself enveloped in that very same light.

"DARIUS!"



Sharline's voice was far away. Everything became enfolded in white light.



don't let this chapter preview illustration fool you. it's kinda messed up. actually, it's really messed up. i think this bit implies that evergrace takes place in.... in a strange world, for sure.... like.....

where is darius being taken to? this kind of world, it's kinda... familiar...

The world below consisted of a mountain range dusted in snow. From the blue sky, the dazzling sunlight shone down on melting snow, creating a small, flowing river.

The base of the river was devoid of snow, but rather it was moss covering the surroundings. After the moss quickly came grass, and immediately beyond that were shrubs, interspersed. The thicker the shrubs became, the more they blended into the forest beyond them, with tall trees... And a grassy clearing.

There were birds in all different colours, shapes, and sizes, they chirped to each other as they flew through the trees. A flock of deer-like animals calmly gathered in the field. The green surroundings bloomed abundantly with brilliantly coloured flowers, and the fruit that dangled were being happily munched away by small animals.

At the borders of this scenery, a dark stain was slowly encroaching. The sign of black smoke. Where the grass refused to grow, where the dust kicked up in a dance, a huge stone wall stood alone on a large piece of land.

Beyond these walls was a crowded town of sturdy stone and iron buildings. Men and women alike came and went in this town, wearing clothes in a style never seen before.

There was smoke coming from a huge chimney, attached to a house. Not a fire just for warmth, but for eating, for pumping up water, for weaving clothes and for all the other purposes of life. Not just for survival, but to thrive with entertainment, too - plenty of wood, thrown into the fire, turning into smoke.

In order to burn that wood to the end of its life, axes and saws gripped by the hands of many carved a path into the forest chopping anything no matter big or small. All to bring that wood back into the town.

The animals, chased within the forest, had their way of living chased away too as they became prey for hunters. New forests had to be found in order to build more and more buildings.

And all that was left was an empty town with polluted water and lifeless earth.

My jaw was just kinda slack this whole time reading this bit. er..... isn't that like..... just what life is today? using energy like that, seems like it's turning wood into coal or something, deforestation, extinction, erm..... that really came out of left field, but perhaps solta would've become like a city in north america today. idk does this imply evergrace takes place in like some post-apocalyptic world. well. well.... here comes some more scathing allegories

[so maybe not north america stop being so america centric alayna. but it's maybe more like an industrial revolution kinda town. medieval pussy. wait no alayna history fail]

These invaders, coming across an especially huge forest, were met by villagers who lived along it. These people lived in the natural caverns and homes shaped by the forest. Small in height and with mediocre weapons in hand, they stood bravely against the invaders who desired to chop down the forest.

The invaders were clothed in iron forged in that town, with huge iron weapons and iron horses [tanks? trains? actual horses clothed in armor?]. It was as if an entire army had appeared before the villagers.

In the overwhelming strength of the ironclad soldiers, the villagers were killed one by one, and the forest was set alight. As fire and smoke danced in the air, what stood before the advancing soldiers within the forest..

Was a single girl.

Though all her companions from the village were simply not there anymore, she stood still against the soldiers with a piercing stare.

A soldier yells something at her. She yells back. What they said, it couldn't be understood in its foreign intonation.

But watching the soldier prepare his spear made it all the more obvious.

The girl continued to tell something to the soldier in a heavy tone, and one word stood clear from the mix - Crest. But the soldier only smiled, mockingly, and launched the spear at the girl.

At that moment, the Crest on the girl's shoulder glowed as it took form, illuminating the environment with a golden yellow around it. And amidst the light, the girl rose, shouting something that couldn't be heard... And began to change shape.



idk how to draw wolves and this bit really fucked up so i'm just using this image off wikipedia.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eurasian_wolf_2.jpg

A golden wolf appeared before them, with a very long tail. She howled, reverberating through the forest. The rain of spears before her - no, not just that, but the soldiers, the horses, everything that touched the glow of the wolf's body simply disappeared. As if they became specks of dust.

Once she had killed every last soldier, she leapt out and away from the forest rendered dead by the invaders, into the land of beginnings, with golden yellow light breezing through the wind as she ran through it all.

Wherever the wolf galloped, golden streaks formed, covering up even the land of death. And at the very end, the solitary wolf let out a sorrowful howl and disappeared.

And at that moment, the earth, the people, and all the towns covered by golden yellow light... disappeared into nothingness.

What remained of the wide, barren land was a single floating ball of light. This greenish spectre-like light, floating above the land...

Green as the Billiana forest.

As if trying to fill in a wound, the Billiana forest fills the land. And that small light has taken on a recognizable shape on the branch of a great Billiana tree - Billiana fruit.

The white fruit turns silver, then slowly into a blue colour. Then green, then to a golden yellow, and then to a faint red. The Billiana leaves rustle as the ripe fruit falls from its branch and onto the soft ground below.

As soon as the fruit touches the ground, roots begin to form, and a sapling sprouts forth. And in the next second, the trunk of the tree grows up towards the sky - and into another huge tree.

That spectre-like Billiana has disappeared. In that deep gouge of the land, those newly born Billiana trees sprout forth, and within those radiantly lush [blue, technically, but can also be green] leaves, a seemingly endless amount of white flowers bloom.

Those glowing flowers [phosphorescence, so like glow in the dark], as soon as the wind blew, they danced along and rained upon the tattered land. They fell upon the land as if snow, and grass and small trees alike sprouted across the earth.

The petals that remained floating in the wind become small insects, flying down on just blooming flowers. The last remaining petals flew high into the wind, to the faraway forest and villages, until they became the seeds of the next living beings, people and animal alike.

O_O

as much as i'm shocked from translating that, can you imagine how darius must feel. man. that's a lot. take a breather here. that

was a lot.



preview image graciously donated by my friend livcat. it's funny, but this is the most heartwrecking part of the novel probably.

"This is the cycle."

That voice could be heard.

"I am the one who makes countless spirits bloom into existence, to fill this world with living beings. To the things that arise that harm said lives, you are the ones who identify and destroy it."

A huge Billiana tree stood tall. As the wind blew, the white flowers clad with light rustled along, and countless branches swayed with ever-growing fruits in all kinds of colours.

Amidst it all was a single fruit, gray in colour, almost spoiling and seemingly ready to fall.

Beyond the wrinkles, the greying skin of the fruit, there was still one part that clung onto greenish colour. At its borders, a faint silver crept closer, and beyond the green skin of the fruit was the closed-off Rieubane, its castle and remaining towns still visible.

Now, pulled into the fruit's core, to the middle of that green sky, the full length of the Tower could be seen below. Within the three pillars of golden light, one encased an exhausted Darius, though the other two pillars contained nothing at all.

There was Sharline, wanting to rush to Darius, but held back by Ralbadora. There was also Orladin, who held the princess in his arms.

"What comes after death is life. The Cycle of this land is reaching its end. The things that arose and harmed lives must be removed and purified.

But you still refuse."

"Rieubane... Is the one that's rotten and about to fall?"

A bewildered voice that belonged to the former Sienna rung out - though now coming from a huge, golden bird. Flapping lightly, she weakly shook her head.

"I... I did all this?"

[sienna is the one who enacted the events of rieubane falling into disarray after all, though ii stand SHE DID NOTHING WRONG]

Then, what happens when it does fall?

"Then there is no rebirth. There is only eternal death and nothingness."

"Is that how it is? Then I'll do it!"

[as in identifying what's left and purifying it. you will see what that means soon]

A voice that once belonged to a young boy, now came from a small golden bird. Looking up to the sky, he continued to talk.

"I'll do it, so that Mama doesn't have to."

"Then..."

“NO! Don’t... Don’t let Trandin do it!”

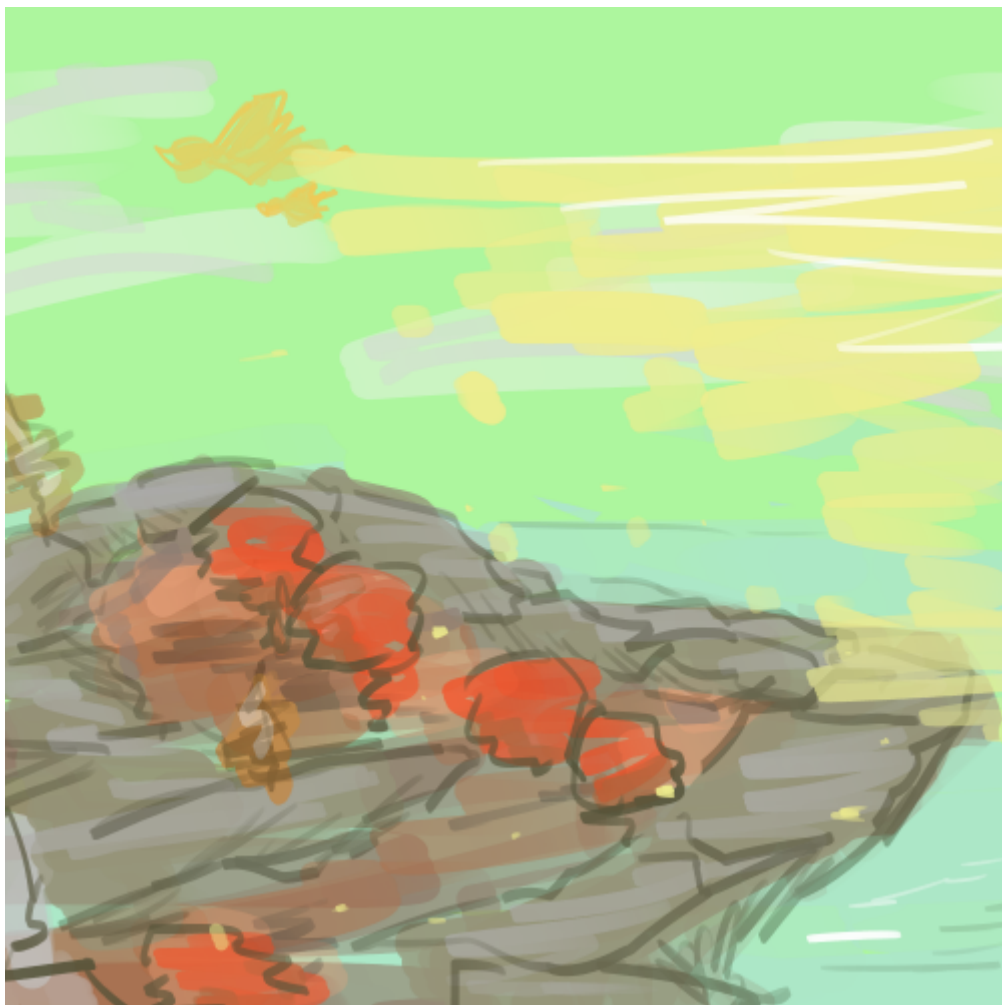
Sienna wrapped Trandin up with her wings in an attempt to shield him. Leaning back slightly, she beckoned to the sky.

“It’s all my fault, so I’ll do it!”

Flapping her wings strongly, Sienna descended towards the borders of Rieubane, aiming for the green walls. Her body shone gold, and resplendent light fell upon the land as if snow.

Wherever and whatever the light touched melted down into thin air.

“Mama!” The little bird followed quickly behind.



The two golden birds encircled Rieubane, rendering the land smaller and the pale green walls ever closer. The ocean itself disappeared.

Even the place where Darius first awoke, where the poorly fashioned grave stood, golden light danced and fell upon it all.

Even at the rocky bend where the old king gazed upon his faraway castle, upon seeing the two birds who flew above with empty eyes, he reached out a hand to the gently drifting golden light...

And the king disappeared.

The land became smaller and smaller. Passing by the remaining trails that led up to the castle, Sienna slowed down by the Royal Shrine. In front of its huge doors was a priestess in black, and though her eyes were covered, she looked up to the sky with a smile.

“Sienna, you’ve finally come, haven’t you?”

“Merida...”

Looking at the smaller bird to the side of Sienna, Merida’s smile grew larger.



“And this must be your son, the one you’ve been looking for all this time, isn’t he? Thank goodness.

Now, we must quickly return to our Mother’s side, yes? Please, by all means.”

“Merida... I...”

Golden wings flapped with a hint of hesitance. Merida’s face became strict.

“Sienna, we do not have any more time. Do not falter in front of me. After this, you still have more to do, and how will you stand before those things then?”

Sienna gasped, and looked up.

“Sienna, please... Save us, save everything that has been trapped here for far too long.”

With a strong flap of her wings, the golden bird beat down upon the Royal Shrine. The hill upon where the shrine was, the shrine itself, all awash in a wave of golden light and all disappeared.

“...Merida...”

From the bird's eyes came white light, and the tattered land below silently disappeared.

“Ah.... Aaaaagh!!”

From the hillside came a single Rieubane soldier, running out. Seeing the golden bird coming closer, he fell to the ground from pure fear and let out a shriek.

“For... Forgive me, I wish I hadn't reported it... The one who had the Crest in Toledo.... P-please forgive me! Aghhh, forgive me!!!”

To the soldier that held his head in fear, a gentle golden yellow light fell down, and he disappeared in screams.

RIP FANG THAT'S ALL RIEUBANE SOLDIERS DEAD NOW. REST IN PEACE

What little land remained of Rieubane was covered in golden light and was replaced it was a bluish-green wall. The birds that made all the land disappear turned their attention to the tower.

With one flap, the land that the tower stood on was wrapped in golden light and disappeared. The two birds flew higher and higher, making a spiral in their trail.

Suddenly, the smaller bird stopped in his tracks.

He peeked into a small window that was open on the side of the Tower's wall.

Medina was absentmindedly sitting on a sofa, petting a fussy cat. The bird in the birdcage was startled by the appearance of the small bird outside, and the noise of the bird led Medina to look out the window.



“Medina?”

The bird who floated at the edge of the window craned his head inside. Upon remembering that voice, Medina hesitantly began to talk.

“T.... Trandin?”

“Mhm.”

“What’s... Why do you look like that?”

“Because Mama’s with me now.”

Upon realizing the scenery that stood behind Trandin wasn’t the scenery she knew at all, Medina got up from the sofa and fearfully approached the windowsill and peered outside.

A featureless wall standing right against the Tower was the only thing she could see from top to bottom.

As she grew panicked at this sudden realization, an unknown voice began to speak.

“And you are?”

Medina looked up and saw an incredibly huge bird, flapping her wings gently.

“That’s Medina. When I was brought here, she was really nice to me.”

Trandin answered on behalf of the speechless Medina, and the huge bird glided down to Medina’s side.

“Is that how it was.... Thank you.”

The bird stood still in front of Medina, and the smaller bird slowly came closer.

“Trandin... Please go ahead first.”

“Why?”

“....I have to have an adult talk with her, that is why.”

The small bird flew around a bit and cheerfully said “Medina, see you later!” before ascending higher above the Tower.

Exhaling slightly, Medina asked the bird.

“.....Erm.... What did you have to tell me?”

The bird nodded slightly.

“ For Trandin, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

“N-no... I didn’t... I couldn’t even protect him....”

“Even so, you saved him. I know it.

If I could, I would wish for you to be friends with him forever, but...”

The huge golden bird flapped her wings.

“....I’m sorry.”

Like a gentle wind, Medina’s body was enrobed with gold light. Sienna looked away, and headed towards the top of the Tower. The green wall that followed her reached all the way up, all the way to the end where the domed lab remained. Where the hole opened up at the top of the Tower, Trandin waited, and as did the Mother of All things.

Sienna looked down within the tower. Beside the golden pillar where Darius remained trapped, Sharline was biting her lips as she stared at the sky. And nearby the man in black armour was Orladin, still with the unmoving princess.



Sienna approached the sparkle in the sky, head lowered.

“.....Sharline and Darius are both people who came from the outside. I plead with you, at least let them return to where they once were before.”

“Before that, there is still more you must do.”

“.....”

“There is something that must be offered in exchange. Show proof of your determination.”

Sienna slowly faced Trandin. The small bird playfully spun around the room, before coming closer to her.

“Hey, Mama! Now what will we do?”

“Trandin..... Stand still, please. In front of Mama.”

The now still Trandin lowered his head, floating in front of Sienna.



Sienna readied herself, pulled back, and gave a flap of her wing....

.....But she could not muster up the power within herself.

“Purify him.”

“.....I.... I can’t, I can’t do it!”

‘There is no time.’

“I know, but...!”

“Will you do nothing, then?”

Sienna shook her head violently.

“No, I won’t!But I.... With my own hands, this child... I can’t kill my own child!”

“Mama!”

The child bird fluttered to his mother, and held her tight. He faced the dazzling light in the sky.

“What should I do? Let me do it, I’ll do it for you!”

“Purify your mother. So that this Cycle can be closed.”

“....My Mama?”

No!

Don't do it!

Stop! STOP!!

“STOP IT!!”

From the final golden pillar, Darius shouted out.

“All this ridiculousness, let me do it!”

Opening his eyes, Darius stared intensely at the open sky.

“Then, what will you do?”

The golden pillar that encased Darius shone intensely in colour, and Darius himself was dyed in golden yellow light.

He raised his right fist, glowing with the Crest, to the sky above.

“I'll do it! That's all I wanted to say, to be honest. All I wanted to say at you!”

[this above line is slightly funny. there's no fucking way i accept that darius would say this.]

“Very well. Then receive this.”

The pillar bursts, and out emerges Darius radiating with light. A flash of white lightning descends on the Tower's apex. and in Darius's hands appears a faintly white greatsword, shining as he wields it.

Darius faces the sparkling light in the sky with a furious expression.

“.....Before that, you bring Sharline and Ralbadora back outside! You, you tell me you can do this!”

“That sword exists beyond time and space. If you ask the heart of the sword, it will do it for you.”

Darius gripped the sword, facing it. As if drawing out Palmira Actions, he focused on the sword, his thoughts growing stronger.

The small remaining part of the tower, what was left of Rieubane and its walls, forming the fruit, the branch, the tree, the Billiana forest. He could feel it all.

Darius turned around and faced Sharline and Ralbadora. He could feel the sword's existence beyond space and time slowly forming around the two.

“....Sharline, Ralbadora, I think I can bring you two back out. But I don't know if I can bring you back in time.”

[as in, the chances that much time has already passed outside, they may be brought back 10 years before Darius is, that kinda stuff, idk]

"Wait, Darius, what are you gonna do? I won't leave without you, Darius!"

Darius simply looked at Ralbadora. The man in black armor grabbed Sharline's arm, trying to hold her back.

Darius swung his sword upwards.

"DARIUS! NO, I'M STAYING WITH YOU!"

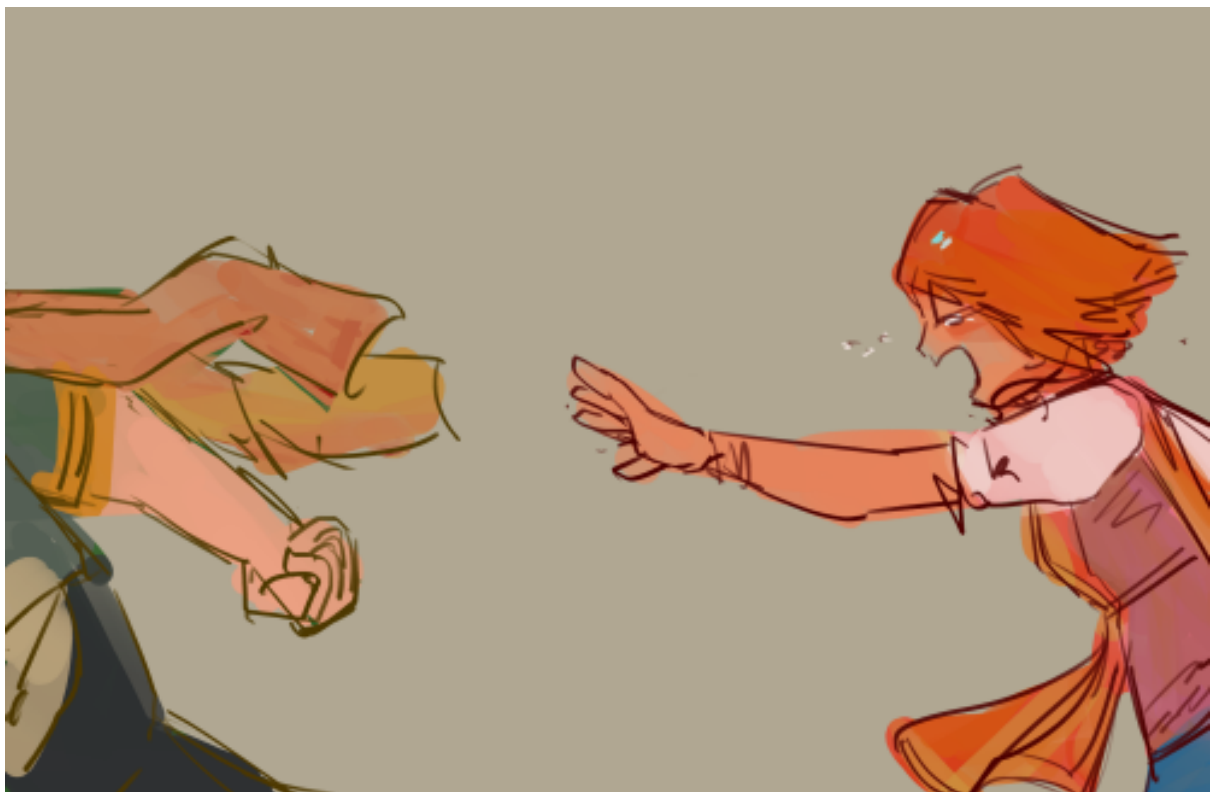
The moonlight within the sword shone in front of Sharline and Ralbadora's eyes. In front of the sword, silver-white light rippled through the air, and through the two people, swallowing them in the light.

"Darius, DARIUS!! YOU... HAVE TO, PLEASE....

PLEASE COME BACK TO US!!"

The two, faces obscured enfolded by white, were sucked into the dazzling space cut open by the sword.

"DARIUUUUUUSSSSSSSS!!!!!!"



Sharline's voice was cut short.

Darius's footsteps were firm, but at the same time light as he made his way to stand before Orladin. In the sea of twisted, black ivy, the princess's head rested against the prince's shoulder, combing her long golden hair with his fingers.

He looked up with calm eyes. Darius silently pointed his sword in Orladin's way.

Please, wait.

"Wait!"

Hearing two voices made him stop. Seeing Darius's questioning face, Orladin began to speak.

"I'm not like you or Sharline. I'm a royal of the Rieubane Empire.

....To go down with this country, I think that should be my responsibility."

[WEIRD INCEST BIT AHEAD AS ORLADIN COZIES UP TO HIS DEAD COUSIN]

He smirked, as if telling a joke, a smile arose on Orladin's face as he held the princess tighter, her body still as ever.

A pale, doll-like face without imperfection, Orladin looked upon her with gentle eyes and let her hair brush against his cheek.

"But, to be honest? I don't really feel like leaving Lisumur behind."

".....Orladin."

"Prince....."

From the soft light above, the golden bird fluttered down to Orladin. The bird gently transformed back into Sienna's human form, descending to the ground in front of the prince.

"I'm sorry... That I.... All of this...."

"No, it was Morpheus's obsession with the Crest that sparked all this. And we were the ones who let him go amok. It's simple cause and effect.

It's... It's us that destroyed the lives of so many."

"Mama?"

The little bird flew to Sienna. She reached out and grabbed him, stopping the bird with a warm embrace. The bird turned back into a little boy, held tightly in his mother's arms.

"Mama, why are you crying?"

"Well, it's because... It's because you came back to me, Trandin."

The boy's face lit up with a big smile, and he burst into happy laughter. Trandin cuddled up to Sienna, rubbing his face against her tear-streaked cheeks. Sienna looked to Darius with eyes overflowing with tears.

“Darius, I was the Demon you were looking for. I was the one who called you to this world. Please... Please save us.”

Sienna held Trandin as close as she could, and cast her eyes downward.

“Darius, thank you for helping me.

.....If there’s an afterlife, meet me there one day, because I really owe you one.

Through his shaky voice, Orladin let out one last cheerful laugh. Then, once more, he spoke in a serious tone.

“Sorry, sorry.... You can go ahead now.”

Darius grit his teeth. In the painful silence, the Crest’s power slowly built up through his body. and the tightly gripped bluish-white greatsword transformed to a golden yellow, and then to a burning brilliance of yellow light.

He raised the sword.

"Don't you go forgetting that promise in the afterlife!"

With a cry, Darius swung the sword down, piercing the ground below as the light grew larger and larger.

The ball of light swallowed its surroundings, and everything in the lab was dyed in golden yellow light, then the tower....

The golden light filled the skies.

The golden light touched Sienna, embracing Trandin in her arms.

The golden light touched Orladin, holding Princess Lisumur tight.

The golden light that their presences gently faded away into.

The golden light that shone as bright as the sun, then into a flash of white, and then everything melted away into nothing.

Billiana, Life and Death, and Rebirth

Music to listen to:

- ▶ FreQuency 「Day After Day」 MusicVideo ▶ EG Expression V Omen Evergrace OST
- ▶ Kota Hoshino - Evergrace II [PlayStation 2, 2001] (Reunion)

Notes: if a fromsoft fan says the company doesn't do handholding show them this chapter.
prepare for emotions.... imagery.... so much guys. so much.



THE BILLIANA FOREST IS ON FIRE! DRESSED IN LIGHT ARMOR, YOU RUSH TO THE SCENE TO BATTLE THE BLAZE. WITH REALISTIC SMOKE, EXPLOSIONS, AND FALLING OBJECTS, CUTENESS AND CHARISMA ARE YOUR CONSTANT COMPANIONS. GET YOUR FIRST TASTE OF THE EXHILARATION OF SPLASHING BUCKETS OF WATER, AND EXPERIENCE WHAT FONTRAIL IS LIKE 13 YEARS AFTER YOU LAST SAW IT. A COMPLETELY NEW CHAPTER OF EVERGRACE NOVEL IS HERE AT LAST!

THIS IS THE ENTIRE FUCKING CHAPTER BECAUSE HOLY SHIT IT'S SO MUCH THIS IS IT THE ENDING EVERGRACE GAME NEVER GAVE US NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH FOR THE FIRST TIME

[alayna posted this all in one go which is why the preface is that]

The crimson flames engulfed the lush green leaves, giving illumination to the silver trunks of the Billiana trees.

There were bellows of commands from somewhere, loud cries, the rumbling of heavy winds that reverberated throughout the forest, the crackling fires that split the tree trunks open, and the pained moans of bodies.

A few trees were already completely entwined with fiery wisps. Those wispy lights descended to the grass below and spread its flames to the neighboring trees, burning as if a chaotic dance.

Within the flames were men entirely dressed in armor, an older man in longer garb, and women and children with pained faces. Pots and buckets in all sizes, huge tarp-like cloths, they grabbed onto anything left and right to try and extinguish the fire.

However, within this group were men in black and green armor completely oblivious to their happenings trying to push their way through, though parts of the crowd slowly advanced with a slew of weapons in hand.

[not mixed colours i mean separate armors, also stuff like swords and clubs and axes and spears. the usual evergrace weapons lol]

"Damn it, this isn't no joke!"

As the flames illuminated the twin curved swords, a stray spear cut into his arm. Illuminated by the same reflective light of the flames, Felk's face dripped with panic, sweat dyed grey. Coughing out the smoke that filled his lungs, he turned to the man behind him, facing the same crowd of villagers with sword in hand.

"Ruyan, we need to run before this smoke messes anymore with our brains!"

"I know! But..... Darius, he's...!"

Two men with clubs and handaxes dashed forwards. The axe was aimed at Ruyan's side, but just barely grazed it as he raised his sword to stop an oncoming swing from the club. The hand gripping the handaxe retreated quickly, just in time to block a swing from Ruyan's sword.

As he ran unknowingly into enemy territory, another man jumped out from above Felkin's head, and a flurry of clashes from his twin blades ensued. Sharp knives cut into the men's faces and arms, cries of pain rising to the air as they staggered back.

But, even as blood ran down the weapons, they were nonetheless firmly gripped as the men stood bravely above the forest floor.

"Stop worrying about that cowardly bastard, running off like that! Shit, these two won't run no matter how much we cut into them!"

"It doesn't matter who set fire to the sacred Billiana trees, we'll kill all of you accomplices! Every last one!!"

A man in black armor jumped out. Just barely stopping the wide dagger with his sword, another knife aimed squarely at Ruyan's face. Ducking down, he swiped his sword at the man's knees. The man in black armor stumbled backwards, falling to the ground, though he gets up and charges again. TRANSLATING FIGHT SCENES IS REALLY HARD I'M JUST USING GOOGLE TRANSLATE A LOT FOR THIS

At that moment, something suddenly flew at Ruyan's face, to which he nimbly avoided as the object landed over his shoulder, resting on his back. A fibrous, thick rope braided from bark -

A kind of rope peculiar to Morea.

Ruyan tried to reach back to his sword, but the rope had caught his arms and chest armor in a tangle...

"FELK, THERE'S A LASSO!"



As soon as Ruyan's cries reached Felkin, the rope pulled tight and he crumbled to the ground. Racing to his side, Felkin tried to cut the rope, but not even a swipe could fully sever the lasso - though it did a fair deal.

Felkin found himself caught in another lasso as he cut away the last pieces of the rope. After one final blow, the rope burst open, and Ruyan slowly got up - but stopped dead in his tracks.

"What... is that...?"

"Oy, what's it now?!"

"Wait, Felk, behind you!!"

"Huh... Hey, what the?! Hey - !"

Ruyan sprang from his spot and aimed his sword in a frenzy at the man who had been pulling at the rope. Slashing at his neck, he landed feet down on the man's head and his now staggered body.

[DID RUY JUST KILL A GUY AND STAND ON HIS HEAD. HUH. NO.... TELL ME IT AIN'T BUT]

And at that, Ruyan dashed towards the fire's epicentre, the middle of the Billiana forest.

"Wait, what are you - AAAGH, WAIT UP FOR MEE!!"

Felk tried to chase after Ruyan, cutting through any and all incoming attackers on his lonesome.

[felk beats up a young guy, another dude with a club, and oh lord he might've just fucking chopped off someone's arm. what the hell were these guys indoctrinated to do well i guess felk is the commander's son and all]

"There's so many.... That idiot!"

Dashing out of the circle of attackers, Felkin continued his chase, muttering swears under his breath, and the flames of the forest continued to dance ceaselessly.

Aside from their pursuers, the rest of the villagers were still fervent with the firefighting efforts, and Felk and Ruyan were able to put space between them and the Moreans for a moment.

After a short sprint, there in front of Ruyan's eyes, stood the monstrous giant of the great Billiana tree.

[You know that big one.]

And in front of that tree, was someone unlike the village people of Morea, but rather, a woman clad in light armor, dyed red - the same red as her hair.

Ruyan's breath was cut short, and he ran to her side to get a proper look at the woman's face. His eyes opened wide in shock.



“Is... Is that really you..... Sharline?”

She gasped at the surprise of being called, and looked up.

“How do you know my name? Who are you?”

.....Aaah! Before all that, help me put out this fire!”

DIRT PILES

TARPS TO SUFFOCATE FIRES

BRAVE FIREFIGHTER SHARLINE MODE ACTIVATED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The red haired woman started to shovel piles of dirt at the burning trees. Ruyan furrowed his eyebrows and reached out to put a hand on her shoulder.

“Sharline, you’re from Solta, aren’t you!? Why are you trying to put out the fires? The Soltans are the mortal enemies of Moreans, right?”

Felkin, having finally caught up to them, couldn’t form any words between his pants of air.

Sharline simply shook off his arm and shouted back angrily.

"That has NOTHING to do with me. If we let the Billiana burn down, then Darius won't be able to come back!"

"W-what?!"

Ruyan and Felk's faces were aghast like a fox, and they stared at each other in disbelief.



"Sharline!"

A low voice made Sharline spin her head back, and a damp blanket of cloth was thrown to her.

"Thanks, Ralbadora!"

With a huge scar across his cheek, the counteroffensive of Morea clad in black armor took a blanket of the same kind and began to smother out the flames of nearby trees. He nodded slightly at Sharline's gratitude, and made his way towards the grandest tree.

And before Ruyan and Felk's eyes, starting with a certain old man, a crowd of villagers began to stream in and spread out to combat the flames that surrounded them. Somehow or another, the man in black armor was commanding the huge crowd.

"What... how... How did this all happen?!"

Sharline was busy putting out flames here and there with the cloth. But even so, the flames from further beyond kept on burning.

Ruyan grabbed onto Sharline's arm.

"It's impossible to stop these fires... It's better to run away at this point."

"Stop getting in my damn way! Until Darius comes back, I'm going to protect this forest!"

Shaking off his hand once more, Ruyan could only look at her, stunned.

In a low voice, Felk murmured in response.

"...You do know, it was Darius who sparked these fires...."

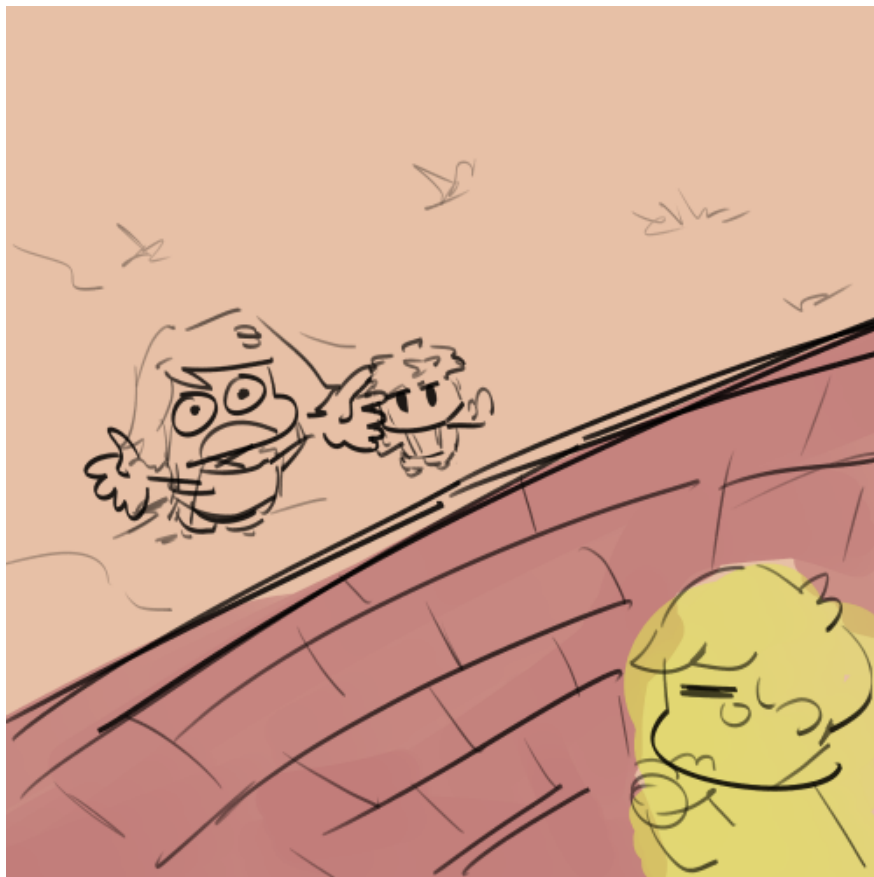
Sharline let out a gasp of shock, eyes drilled at the two.

"What did you just...!?"

"It's true. ...Sharline, you should be able to recognize who I am. It's me, Ruyan, from Seclue.

The eyes that almost seemed to bite at Ruyan slowly softened into a gentler expression.

".....Ruyan? The one who couldn't get down from the rooftop so he started crying like a little baby, that Ruyan?"



Felk burst into laughter. Ruyan nodded as those painfully embarrassing memories rose to the surface.

“Yes, that Ruyan. We came here because our mission was to burn down the Billiana Forest.”

At that moment Felk noticed the footsteps of oncoming people, and all of a sudden out came their pursuers, the two soldiers of Morea.

Ruyan put out a protective arm in front of Sharline.

“It’s going to get dangerous here. We need to escape.”



Sharline only looked at Ruyan’s outstretched arm, and turned her attention back to putting out the fires.

“I’m going to wait right here for Darius.”

“Sharline....!”

“Your teammate’s waiting for you, right? Hurry up and go!”

Ruyan, facing Sharline’s back, could hear noises of fighting going on behind him. Biting his lips, he could only stare forwards frustratingly, until a burst of white light illuminated the darkness.

The fire and flames flapped up as the huge Billiana tree stirred up, and a single pillar of light shone down, creating a sphere. The surrounding people looked upon the light with voices of shock.

Sharline suddenly snapped her head up at all the commotion.

“Darius!”

“Wha -?!” Passing by the dumbfounded Ruyan, Sharline ran towards the glowing light that slowly descended down.

Slowly, the white light turned a golden colour, and as it drifted down grew into a size comparable to a human. As the light touched the earth, it disappeared, and from it came a young man donning black armor and silver hair, a faintly blue greatsword with golden hilt in hand.

“Darius!!”

Sharline’s face lit up with happy relief. The Moreans who had always protected the great trees looked up with a different kind of surprise.

“It’s the man who started this fire!”

“Wait, what....?”

“The calamity, it’s going to start again!”

A countless number of people grabbed onto their weapons and slowly made their way towards the young man. Sharline jumped out in front of Darius and flung her arms out, trying to make a barrier between him and the crowd.

“Please, don’t do it!”

The approaching footsteps stopped at once by Sharline’s sudden outburst, and instead came a quickly growing wave of threatening faces.

“A Soltan?!”

“She must’ve come for revenge as well!”

Tsk! Ruyan began to run towards Sharline, but in that moment someone else was faster. The counteroffensive took a stance in front of her.

“Ralbadora?” From the crowd, many surprised voices arose. From the sea of confused faces, the robed old man in green slowly staggered out.

“Ralbadora..... Is that you?”

The man with a scarred cheek swiftly bowed at the old man, whose eyebrows were furrowed.

“Why, why did you stop us?”

“Myself, and those two, we returned on the behalf of our Mother’s blessings.”

The old man's eyes widened in shock. In that moment, Ruyan and Felk rushed to Sharline and Darius's side, weapons at their side, facing the Moreans.

"You disappeared in a flash, and now you come back in a flashy outfit, huh?"

Felkin continued on, half shocked and half exhausted.

"Just say the word and we can get outta this place, Darius."

"Wait, just... put down your weapons."

And from those words, Darius turned around. He closed his eyes and raised the sword to the sky, supported by Sharline. [mentally or physically, idk BUT PHYSICALLY IS BADASS BECAUSE THEY'RE BOTH HOLDING THE MOONLIGHT SWORD]

He slowly opened his mouth to speak.

"I... I saw it. We... We can't afford to lose the Billiana."

From Darius's right hand, the Crest began to glow white, and the faint light of a huge glowing sword appeared from the core of the greatsword. The light rose higher into the sky, becoming whiter and brighter. With a shout, he swung the sword above his head.

Suddenly, in front of the watching crowd, a twister emerged from the sky, whipping up gales reaching all four corners of the Billiana Forest.

Wherever the winds of white light touched the blazes, they died down as if fairytale magic, and where the out of control fires extinguished remained the badly burned trees. As the winds enveloped these fires, each and every one of them, they all eventually disappeared.

Darius looked around slowly, and then struck his sword down into the ground. From his armor, a reddish light emerged, passing through the sword and then spreading throughout the earth.

As the singed earth made contact with the sword's glow, small sprouts of grass burst forth, with green leaves. And the more these newly born sprouts spread, the ground dyed grey in smoke sprang forth with a lush green once more.

From this new carpet of grass, even the dead arms of the trees above replaced themselves with short, sprouting buds, dangling from reborn branches.

A crack splits in Darius's armor, and the light gradually disappears. Frowning as he gripped the sword's hilt, sweat dripped down his tightly shut eyes.

From his side, Sharline reached into her waist pouch and took out a piece of Palmira, placing it on the sword's handle.

"Darius, use this."

The Palmira dissolves into the sword and disappears into the ground, and from the grass around the sword's surroundings comes forth huge green leaves, with small buds growing.

Suddenly, the growth of the fauna slows to a crawl. The light of the sword still gripped in Darius's hand was fading down, pained face accompanying slumped arms. Breathing heavily, he kept a firm grip on the sword and on himself, as if telling his body to keep going.

"Not... Not yet!"

Biting her lips, Sharline kept searching frantically through her pouch to see if anything could be of use. Ralbadora stepped forward, presenting a knife engraved with the carving of a dragon to her.

"This sword was graced with our Mother's blessings."

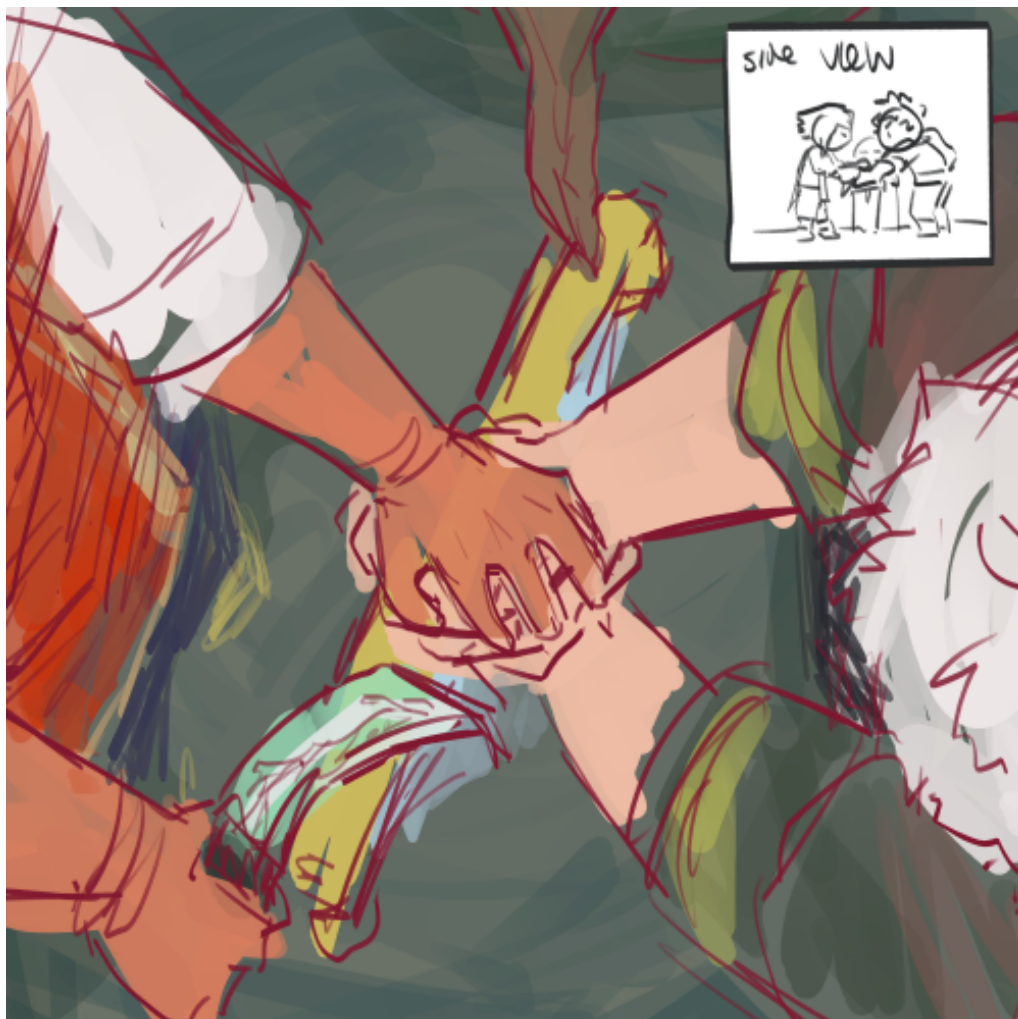
Looking straight at Sharline, Ralbadora quietly nodded.

The old man who had been holding the rope advanced towards Sharline and Darius.

"We will pray for the sake of restoring this forest." And placed his cane atop the sword's handle.

Sharline, too, laid the knife across the handle of the sword.

She took her other hand and squeezed Darius's hands tightly, closing her own eyes.



From the cane and the knife alike came a grassy-green light that washed over the sword. From the forest, sprawling bushes came forth once more, countless small flowers blooming across the grassy fields.

The burnt earth and the ashen trees were no more - instead, a breath of new winds, new life filled the Billiana forest once again.

The cane and knife both cracked, and the old man and Sharline stepped back. Darius, too, raised his head and gingerly let go of the greatsword. As it stood all on its own, it floated up the perimeter of the huge Billiana tree...

And as the people watched on, the sword lost its colour, fading away into the newfound scenery.

Where the sword had disappeared, a reddish Billiana fruit appeared in its place. It was smaller than any of the other fruits on the tree, and gave off a polished glow. Suddenly, it fell off its branch, falling to the thick grasses below.

Before Darius and Sharline could even run to where the fruit had fallen, a sapling had already risen up in its place. More and more saplings grew to the blue skies above, a bountiful amount of fresh leaves sprouting.

The silver trunk of the tree slowly stopped growing, its bark turning a duller grey. The young leaves became a sea of green. And beyond the leaves were white flowers, bountiful as a sky full of stars.

And from this newfound sea came a gentle rainfall of white petals.



From the wave of winds above, the Billiana Tree rustled gently. As if a flock of birds ready to take their first flight, the white flowers separated from the young trees and rode the winds, dancing along the air. Making their way through the crowds of trees, flying high up into the blue skies, illuminated by the sunlight they made their way to distant lands.

As if the disappearing morning glare of sunlight, the white flowers and saplings had disappeared, exchanged for the grassy forest that remained.



“That.... That wasn’t a dream, was it?” said Felkin, rubbing his eyes.

Darius looked to the sky.



“It was Rieubane.”

“Huh?”

Ruyan could only let out in bewilderment.

Darius slowly turned around to look at them.

From Sharline who was at his side, to the puzzled faces arising from Ruyan and Felk, to Ralbadora and the old man who looked back understandingly, and then to the waves of speechless Moreans.

“It was from this land that Rieubane was once was on, that Billiana grew. And, then...”

Darius paused for a moment, and gazed at the huge Billiana tree above.

“The power of this earth will return. The dried out lands... They’ll become green again.”

“Wh... Wait a minute. You come back saying all that weird unbelievable stuff?! Just what the hell happened to you, Darius?!”

He turned towards Felk, that always prattling friend of his, and simply gave him a calm look.

“I... I saw the Cycle of Billiana.

The laws that support this world. Morea... The Moreans, they've been right all this time. It's Billiana that supports this world."

Felkin turned back, as if trying to get Ruyan to back him up. He only stared intensely at Darius and Sharline, quietly, then slowly started to speak.

"How can you prove that sort of thing?"

"It was the Billiana of Rieubane, it brought back this green, this life."

"That's impossible. These fruits don't have any minds of its own..."

"But it's the truth. I'm telling the truth."

The old man stepped into the middle of their conversation.

"No outsider has ever listened to our words. But even so, we have our stories, and we must protect the Billiana. Until the day our words reach others..."

"Oy, Darius, you... You're gonna go against our laws... er, the will of Fontraile, is that what you're thinking?"

"No, that's what destroying Billiana would mean. But, I need to tell the leaders what I saw. I need to tell them what happened to the me that wanted to set fire to the Billiana Forest."

"Do you think they'll even listen to what you have to say?"

"Nothing will change if I don't even attempt to try."

Red hair brushed along Darius's shoulder, stray fingers searching for his hand. Darius took Sharline's hand into his, and held it tightly.

"If that's what you want to do, then by all means. But, they could call for us to come back at any moment..."

Ruyan shrugged his shoulders, and looked at the crowd of Moreans around them.

"Open the way."

At the voice of the robed old man, the crowd of people opened a path, and he made his way towards Darius.

"Do you believe what I just said?"

"You've righted your wrongs. You certainly have the Mother of All Things' power within you - and thus, I have absolutely no reason to believe otherwise. With that..."

The old man turned his gaze down to Darius's right hand, the Crest wrapping around the back of his hand as much as he wrapped his hand around Sharline's.

"There is an old story we tell about the Crest being a symbol of our Mother's love. With the bitter rumors that surrounded the Crest, that story is almost all but gone, but some people still believe in it."

The old man's eyes narrowed, and he nodded at Ralbadora. The man clothed in black armor advanced towards Darius, and stopped in front of him.

"This time, leave this to us." [oretachi so darius says it]

"Those are good words for what you desire to do. But, if you ever need my assistance, I will make my way to you, wherever you are."

From Ralbadora's words, both Darius and Sharline smiled.

Following after Ruyan and Felk, Darius and Sharline left the crowd of people, then the Billiana Forest, and then the path itself gradually turned into normal trees. Turning around one last time, the leaves that fluttered from the great Billiana Tree like white light scattered back into the forest below.

"Darius.... Do you think everyone will understand you?"

Sharline walked beside him with a worried look.

Darius looked through the tatters of the leather that had always been wrapped around his Crest.

"...Whatever we do, I don't think people will change their minds so easily. Their beliefs, their preconceptions... It's all so deep-rooted."

"But, someday, I will get through to them."

Darius ripped off what remained of the leather and belt.

"Because this Crest, this Cycle, none of this will ever disappear."

Darius looked intensely at his Crest, now bare.

That hand, now intertwined with Sharline's.

And the two looked at each other, and smiled.



Epilogue - The Billiana Forest, and the time that approaches

Music to listen to:

- ▶ Grace Bonus Track Evergrace OST
- ▶ EG Expression V Omen Evergrace OST

Notes: i was very sad to translate this final chapter of the evergrace novel, to see this wonderful story come to an end after about 10 months of reading. but when i finished it, my heart felt like and i was very happy for a few days. please enjoy! also thx saria for omoi help

The parliament of Fontraile was in an uproar, an uproar so loud it bounced off the walls of the luxurious building and drowned out any opposing argument. Soldiers had been stationed around the perimeter of the senate since the debate started. And the debate raged on until Darius, of the four swordsmen of Solta, and a woman by the name of Sharline, fled the premises.

Fontraile's leaders were, of course, adamant on hiding the fact that one of their legendary four swordsmen had betrayed them, and hid all evidence of the incident. Calling upon Ruyan and Felkin, the remaining swordsmen of Solta, the leaders commanded them to go on a pursuit after the two.

However, Ruyan objected to the completely one-sided attacks from parliament, and while Felkin complied with the order, he returned back with a half-hearted report, as if a sign of protest against the infallible government.

In the end, the search was thrown out on account of lack of evidence...

At around the same time, reports came that a man and woman had apparently settled at the land where the once grand empire of Rieubane used to be.

From the empire that disappeared over a hundred years ago, where not even moss would grow on those deserted wastelands, a sudden burst of Billiana trees sprung from the ground, bringing grassy flowers along with it, and it seemed that the two people were able to survive within a grassy clearing surrounded by these lanky trees.

As if an oasis brought to life amidst the barren lands.

The two took up shelter in a simple tent, and taking water from a nearby river, they continued to nurture the greenery surrounding them.

yes. it's what you think it is.

CUE SHINY DAYS.

CUE THE YURUCAMP EVERGRACE COZY MOMENTS

▶ EVERCAMP (THE TRUE ENDING OF EVERGRACE)



If any weary travellers passed by, they greeted them warmly, and if the traveller wanted to hear it, then they'd tell it - the story of Rieubane, and of the Billiana trees.

And if anyone appeared to have the desire to harm the trees on behalf of Fontraile's desires, they were promptly thrown out into the wilderness.



In response to the two's efforts, the forest grew as if it roared to life. Steadily, day by day, and within less than a year, as if the Billiana trees themselves wanted to grow and flourish, the barren land was covered with a wide span of green.

At the edges of the forest the two had grown, homes [ie so, houses, settlements, dwellings] had popped up, resembling those built from the village of Morea. And the more and more people flocked to the settlement, charmed by the stories and personalities of the two, the more the homes grew. Out of the two who first lived here, the man had something like a marking on the back of his right hand, the Crest that was so-called to bring calamity.

Although, he didn't make a show of hiding it, Crest bare as day, and the people continued living there without paying it heed either.

But, one day, a troop of soldiers from Fontraile arrived before this small settlement. The man with the Crest gripped his sword tightly, and at his side was the red haired woman, bow and arrow in hand.

They stood against forty soldiers. 40 to 2.

The outcome seemed all but easily predictable.



But, before the soldiers, so sure of their victory, suddenly came tens of swordsmen from Morea ready to fight.

Then, before the commander of the troops called for the assault to start, one of the Swordsmen of Solta, Ruyan, called for half of the soldiers to fall back with him. And so, it was half the army who stood before the man and woman, and the swordsmen of Morea.

The swordsmen of Morea fought bravely, of course, and the woman's sharpshooting was as if she had trained with wild animals, but the man with the Crest, his swordplay, it was like something else entirely. He could take on three or four soldiers by his lonesome, until a solitary soldier finally realized the man's true identity as it burst from his lips.

"The silver haired Crest..... T-that's Darius, of the four swordsmen!"

As that name coursed like a wave through the soldiers, they turned tail and scampered all at once.

This was the testimony of Ruyan, who was held responsible for the retreat.

"The ruins of Rieubane have become a forest of green, and the neighboring villages have finally had regular crop returns and harvests come back.

So why now, of all times, must we be cutting down the Billiana trees?"

On account of Ruyan's punishment via imprisonment, the soldiers had an order of silence around the matter, but all too late. The distrust grew against the current government as word spread out about Darius's siding with Morea, along with Ruyan's imprisonment for going against the leaders.

At the growing anger against the government, the best of the leaders convened, and the most well known people directed the soldiers, and anyone else below this status were formed into groups of guerilla soldiers, and all were directed to the ruins of Rieubane to subdue the outcasts.

A group, enough to control a small village, set out for Rieubane from Fontraile, but could not reach the settlement.

In the valleys along the path lied people waiting in ambush. Cascading rocks and sand before the soldiers, they had no choice but to retreat.

At the forefront of the ambush was the silver-haired Darius and the counteroffensive of Morea, according to the testimony of the swordsman Felk, among other soldiers.

The sending out of the troops was meant to be confidential. Somehow, somewhere, word arose that perhaps someone within the ranks had slipped information to the people of Rieubane - and fingers were pointed squarely at Felkin. But before an investigation could even start, a powerful member of parliament was assassinated, and the whole investigation was called off, attributing the failure to the troops instead.

With thanks to the bountiful harvests that fed the starving people, the disdain towards the Billiana wavered, and instead came apathy towards the useless soldiers, and all at once the talk of logging the Billiana had simply disappeared.

[this next bit is a bit hard to decipher]

The new congress, guilty of crimes against the four swordsmen, and wanting a return to popularity and stability, reinstated Ruyan and Felk's roles as guardians.

Messengers came and went pleading for Darius to return back to his home, but the Crest-branded youth simply shook his head over and over.

"I'll return back if there's something big happening back home. But for now, protecting the forests is far more important to me."

After that short conflict, more and more people took residence at the ruins of Rieubane. Though it was mostly the people of Morea at first, even people from Solta who heard about Sharline's seemingly miraculous survival, and like-minded people with Darius's betrayal of Fontraile began to live there, too.

The settlement became a village, and Darius and Sharline gave it the name of "Rieubane" once more.



And just like the words of Morea's leader, Darius enthusiastically shared info and resources with neighboring lands, and the village branched out, a far cry from the hidden villages of Moreans of so long ago. [not to rag on them sorry]

And so a year passed.

The bountiful forest and the village of Rieubane. The image of a place that was once devoid of a single strand of grass was forgotten by people entirely.

It was a starless sky, with only hints of white shining up from the east, slowly tinting the dark blue skies. Just a little bit before dawn.

Darius, sporting leather armor and gauntlets, stood quietly in the living room of the house. A house furnished simply with chairs and a table atop a dirt floor, but it was their home. He reached for a cloak, but stopped suddenly, having a thought to check out the adjacent room.

In the narrow room were a few furnishings too along with a bed, and in the single bed was a person covered up by a blanket. Without making a sound, Darius carefully made his way to the bed's side.



Sharline was sleeping soundly, with light snores. Darius gazed gently at her face, rimmed with red hair, and whispered a curt "I'm sorry" before leaving her side.

[this kills the alayna. also i used light snores when it's just "breathing of a sleeping person" just because i wanted her to snore pretty funny]

Returning to the living room, cloak now draped on his body and small rucksack for travelling hanging off his shoulder, he left through the door of this simple home.



Before day broke, before the village was bustling with children and workers alike, all was quiet as the sun was not yet coming. As his own home disappeared from view, all he could see were the other roofs fashioned from huge ferns and branches, the straw and soil walls, all the things that made up the neighborhood of houses semi dyed in darkness. Not to mention the livestock and clay furnaces around the perimeter, too. In the fields beyond the village, the silhouettes of sprouts quietly grew.

At the beginning of their arrival, he and Sharline dug out the dried out soil with hoes, kicking up the land as if sand dancing through the air.

Now, the land was soft and the leaves were plentiful, and the poor crops from long ago now came back many times more bountiful with the excellent earth.



Darius thought, recalling the memories of that laborious work, the image of the barren lands was quickly replaced as quickly as the views towards the Billiana and the Crest changed from its former hostility.

It seemed all was going well. But, it was precisely the warmth of the village that made him feel a creeping sense of complacency. An illusion of good news.

Looking back at the quiet village, where things seemed to be all as it usually was, Darius turned around and followed the path into the deep shadows of the forest.

Through the thick layers of foliage, the thin light of day barely seeped through, and so Darius kept to the familiar paths that didn't rely on looking too much as he travelled deeper and deeper in. A sort of pale light appeared before him.

Within the darkness, a white, glowing [phosphorescence again] enveloped a Billiana tree up ahead. Darius approached the tree as it glowed stronger, as if in reaction to him.

The first time he had visited Morea, it was as if the Billiana trees couldn't grow any larger. This wasn't anything like those huge trees, in fact much smaller than the ones in Morea, and more like the size of its surrounding trees. Even so, it was as if the tree was working tirelessly to give energy to the life surrounding it.

The misunderstanding that the Billiana sapped the life around it, and the Crest that sprung forth, and the fears about having to go through something like Rieubane's purification of the people and land... That wasn't quite what he was worried about anymore.

The problem was the prejudice around the Crest. The Crest was simply a way for the Mother of All Things to see the world, and that was it. But when Crest-bearers were subject to deep pain and despair, it was the Mother who granted them powers to purify everything around them.

A power granted to those who wanted everything to disappear.

A saving *grace*, purification.

But, the sudden deaths that followed these Crest-bearers granted them the names of "those who bring death" and "cursed mark" by outsiders. And so this ominous mark was branded as a curse and brought a great deal of persecution.

No... It was still causing persecution. Even now, no matter where you went, the people born with the Crest still had cold eyes and bitter feelings directed towards them. And that loneliness would lead to despair, the kind that calls for purification, and so the cycle of fear would start again.

"I have to find other Crest-bearers."

He spoke to the Billiana tree, shining with drops of light.

"People need to understand what the Crest is, and what the Crest-bearers are. That's why I'm leaving."

The gently swaying treetops seemed to be gesturing to the light above the night sky, telling it to send Darius off as the light reflected off his back. Returning to the dark forest once again, and crossed through the sleepy village.

[i think the map would be like, darius and sharline's house is a distance away from the village or so? surrounded by dark forest?]

Around the perimeter of the village was a well built stone wall, with a large door constructed of wood built into it. Darius made his way to the side of this door and up a small set of stairs instead, up to a lookout built off the side of the walls.

As he hurried up the steps, he was greeted with the face of a young looking man.

"Gooooood morning!Village leader, that is. Are you going off somewhere?"

Looking at the travel-ready Darius, the man continued on with a confused tone.

"Erm, Vodos here can take care of anything past this point..."

[vodos may be this person, or a person, or a place, idk but it's a misunderstanding maybe. this bit was a little funky i think you can just imagine a short timeskip here to where darius gets to the big door]

Darius pushed the large door aside. Before him was a small clearing and forest, where only gentle hills continued on. Wherever he looked, birds were chirping at the first signs of morning.

"If the village leader leaves, then Fontraile will certainly come again, you do know..."

"I have no worries. No matter what happens, it should be fine as long as Sharline is here."

"Huh? Miss Sharline, she's..."

"Staying. Thanks for your work."

The huge door closed, and from the small window that served as the lookout was the young man's face, positively confused. He turned around to look away, but just as Darius started to walk again, the man appeared behind him, panting from his sprint.

"Please take care on your trip. And remember to please come back to us!"

After giving a quick wave in response, Darius walked along the well-used path, headed towards the morning light growing ever white.

From the newly born buds along the path, after two years, five years, ten years, whenever those rows of trees form an arch over the pathway, just how many birds will be here then?

Peering deeper into the small forest, he could see the wispy shadows of deers, hidden within the foliage. From mounds of grass, the sounds of an uncountable amount of small animals reached his ears, too. And from the undergrowth, plenty more species scuttled about, their movement jostling the morning dew above.

The amount of animals, the variety of them all, they had all increased a notable amount. They were not afraid of humans, living alongside those in the village and galloping along these trails.

And so, when a shadowy figure stopped at a tree alongside the path, Darius thought it must've been a deer or some other thing.

"You're late."

Out from the shadows and standing squarely in the middle of the path, hands firmly placed on hips, a sight that made Darius instantly frown all at once.

Not like she was smiling at him, either.



Between red hair were a pair of eyes, furious as if a fire burned within them.

“You’re late to the start of your own journey. How is that even possible, I wonder?”

“.....Sharline? Why?”

“So you don’t get it? You were going about all scatterbrained for the past little while, and you didn’t think I’d see it? Trying to prepare for a journey behind my back... But you were just too jittery not to notice.”

Sharline was sporting a proper set of red armor, bow and arrows on her back, and near Darius’s boots were a set of travel bags almost the same as his own.

“Sharline, you wouldn’t be....”

“I haven’t a clue where you’re going, and that’s exactly why I’m going together with you.”

Darius was taken aback for a moment, but quickly returned to a stoic face as he shook his head.

"This isn't some simple journey with a simple destination. I'll end up wherever I end up, and I don't know when I'll be coming back. Just go back to the village."

"Oh, so if it's that kind of journey, isn't that all the more reason not to go off alone?"

Sharline's severe expression gradually softened.

"Darius, I know you've gotten stronger, and you could probably do a good job of protecting yourself now, but I can still help you, you know?"

I promised I'd protect you, no matter what."

"If Fontraile attacks, the people back there would need your help far more than mine. Just... Come on, you don't need to let a promise like that hold you back anymore."

"It's a promise I intend to keep for life, you know."

"But...."

"If that's how you wanna act, you can go off on your own. Not like that'll stop me from following you, anyways."

Darius's mouth opened, but nothing came out for a while. Except for a huge sigh.

"...I give up. Why is it always, always...."

"Always you being pushed around like this? That's what you're thinking, right?"

Picking up her luggage, Sharline made her way to Darius's side, and gave him a cheeky smile.

"Well, why'd you think that I was about to say that?"

"Because I hit the head on the nail, beautifully as usual?"

Darius returned an irritated look at her.

"I know pretty darn well how sweet you can really be, y'know.

And, more than anything...."

Sharline cut her words short there, and when Darius looked up, a huge smile greeted his face.

"I'd really like to be at your side forever and always, Darius."

A gentle warmth lit up in Darius's heart, spreading through his whole body. The thought of having someone always supporting him, always giving him strength, there were thousands of words that rose up.

But the words that did come out were quite short, and dull to say the least.

"I'm grateful."

But it was enough to make Sharline blush, and turn away towards the path ahead.

HE DID IT HE ACT
FINALLY SAID A W
THANKS FOR ONCE

LETS FUCKING GO
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO



“Well, where to now?”

“To the small villages at the farthest reaches of Fontraile. We’ll see if we can find anyone with the Crest there.”

“You’re gonna tell them the true meaning behind the Crest, aren’t you?”

“All around Fontraile, and to the neighboring kingdoms if I need to. It’s gonna be a long and winding journey.”

“But, it’s what you gotta do. Right?”


Darius nodded.

And in front of the two was a vast land, illuminated by the morning sun.

- End -



Afterword

Music to listen to:  Kota Hoshino - Evergrace II [PlayStation 2, 2001] (Music From The Bottom of The Lake)

Notes: This is an afterword by Kaeko Shimomura, and yeah! That's about all there is to it.

To most everyone here, nice to meet you for the first time.

And to everyone else, unfortunately, Kaeko Shimomura has returned.

To work on a novel after such a while, and for it to be a novelization of Fromsoftware's "Evergrace," it really left me with deep emotions after coming all the way from "King's Field." I truly am honoured for this opportunity.

I went into this novelization wanting to set a proper stage for the characters and to remain faithful to the game's atmosphere, but once I saw the end in sight, I realized I hadn't written enough in some places. Wherever I looked, it felt like there weren't enough words, so there may be some parts that I didn't realize could be confusing, and for that I have regrets.

Of special mention are the Four Swordsmen of Solta, who were only lightly touched on in the prologue and the very end. The conflict with Felkin, and the sensitive heart of Ruyan, I wish I had more I could've written about them.

.....Is what I say, but I really really wanted to write more about Felk's [manzai](#) act, y'know, because he's the kind of character that's so interesting when you tease him.

Rather, the one who went most out of control in the main story would be "Orladin."

Seriously, I didn't expect for him to butt heads with Darius to the very end, but it was like something flung open in me. When I was playing the game, I'm sure I thought he was somewhat appealing, but it totally gave him much more meaning once Princess Lisumur was introduced. Like a turbo hot-headed mode, he kept pressing on.

Conversely, "Sharline" was very difficult to write, her nuances were just hard to grasp. Well, that's why I wrote the epilogue and all.

Huh, what's Darius and Sharline's relationship in the epilogue?

Well, I wonder what it is, huh... (looks into the distance)

[alayna would like to denote them as eternal sibling besties, thank you]

Hey hey, regarding what was written under the inside illustration (.....yes I'm dodging that question), that was actually an excerpt from a "Gregorian Chant" that was written in Latin. This...

"Look upon my troubles and suffering, and forgive these sins of mine, O God"

... Is what it means. I chose such a dark theme, eh?

For this story to become a full-fledged book, I received a lot of help in many ways.

Evergrace's producer, Takeuchi-san, who answered many of my nitpicky questions.

The beautiful front and inside covers, drawn by the illustrator Sugawara-san.

And for providing such a productive environment to create said illustrations, Sano-san from the digital studio.

For pushing the wishy-washy me to write this novel, the steadfast leader Nakatsu-san.

And to "You" who picked up this book and read it to the very end, it's because of you that this book could be finished successfully. Everyone, thank you so very much.

I hope that this book has helped you enjoy "Evergrace" to a whole new level.

June 2000, Kaeko Shimomura

[While her personal site is defunct now, there is also a short commentary still saved on the Internet Archive! It's more or less the same information, but check it out regardless eh?
https://web.archive.org/web/20010110222800/http://www.din.or.jp:80/~sim1532/work/talk/Inov_2.htm]



taptroupe

please give me hug and congratulations for translating and finishing a novel in six months



taptroupe

i celebrated by going on a mini rant about how darius should get fucked in the ass and it was so powerful my boyfriend unliked my tweet

A friend of mine that I got to know better after playing Lost Kingdoms once told me to check out Kota Hoshino's other musical works. So, I did, and got my ears blown clean off.

I picked up Evergrace at a game store for about 15 dollars in the summer of 2020. I had to borrow my friend's PS2 for it. I played through it, bugs and lukewarm reception and all.. And I don't know, maybe I have a tolerance for shit or something? Because I had a great time of it all... Except for Sharline's puzzles in the Human Research Lab, of course. No one would have fun with those. But I remember very clearly.... When Darius saw Sharline at the coliseum, it was exciting, sure, but when he said it...

"I killed her..."

Hit me like a car. Probably hit me more than they intended it to hit. Went through the rest of the game, and immediately the From Brain started to kick in. What is the Cycle? What is the Crest? Who are Darius and Sharline? Why did Darius kill Sharline, if they're supposed to be friends? Where do they go after such a mysterious ending?

On the recommendation of my friend Puddles (I MISS YOU), I 100% the game and got the story and character info [stuff not even included in the japanese game!], but even so... Piecing it all together, things were guessed and guesses were wrong. Darius was not in fact, a baby who went through super puberty. But the world of Rieubane, and how time passed far faster inside than out... The powers of the Crest.... And why Sharline says "You've grown up." They were all very fun mysteries to guess on. There were some interesting images circulating around, whispers of a novel... So, as my birthday rolled around, I bit the bullet, and, well....

The novel hit like a truck.

It just, one late night, opening the package, and I struggled through the first few pages for an hour, but I could understand one thing....

"A girl stood at the hill with hair redder than the sunset sky."

And she hugged that boy so tightly...

It was From Brain fused with found family. The thing I had suspected that Evergrace was about, or at least the feeling of Found Family Funny Moments that I desired and drew out in my early fanart... It was all very much real in the novel. Alayna's heart was no match.

From then on came months of reading on and off, phone in hand many times, and at very late nights... I stayed up until four once, at the coliseum, and when I couldn't bear it no more I slept for like, six hours and woke up right back into reading. I can still remember one winter day in December very clearly, that reunion at the lab, something I had wished was more fleshed out.... Something more substantial than Darius going like *SHAKES YOU*
SHARLINE IT'S ME DO YOU REMEMBER ME OH MY GOD SIENNA OH GOD SHE'S -

And man, did I get my wish. The joy of that day, probably won't ever hit so hard again. Okay, and I had hotpot that day too, so that kinda added to it. BUT THE REUNION THE HUG MAN

And then months later, I deliberately woke up early on a weekend to translate Darius and Sharline's reunion at the lab for this document proper lol, so you know my dedication was real. Like, once school was over, and some family things had come and passed, I was full throttle on translation. I finished chapters in days. In fact, I have accidentally woken up my mother at like 3 as I finished up the epilogue. and if you've seen my livetweets, liveblogs, you'll know... I really went through it. Threads of pain, of joy, of anger... That fakeout by Darius at the end. Man. And the glow and fulfilled feeling I had the week after I finished the novel. I could practically feel a gentle wind on my back.

I've stayed up late to play games, but for a book... Evergrace, as a novel, is so much.

I wish I could put into words how much it got me through, just thinking about the wonders and mysteries the novel might hold. Or how seeing all this heartwarming moments kept my heart warm in the cold of... Well, uh, working on a grad film in the basement for a whole year. The fun of struggling through a language I knew very vaguely, through a whole book... That's Fromsoftware, you know?

Anyhow, that's all I have to say for now, but I'll be thinking about the Evergrace novelization for a long time to come, perhaps. And what I can't put into words, I have put into art, and on that matter perhaps I will end this with a piece.

Thank you for your support, and thank you for reading!



The spoiler-y characters who didn't actually get a bio but shout out to them anyways

[Fang*]

[Bard*]

Perhaps the last remaining soldiers in all of Rieubane. Loyal to Orladin. Fang was once part of the expedition to Toledo. Not much I can say about them. I even forgot there was another one! Might've not gotten a name.



[Ralbadora*]

A soldier from Morea, specifically designated to assassinate those who dare attempt to hurt The Mother of All Things, and as an extension the Billiana Trees. Has a lot of cool weapons with dragons engraved on them.



[That one wolf girl who didn't get a name but shoutout to her]

May have had friends. Maybe not. But she sure did her best to save her village and the land so you get a shoutout lady.



[Faeana - *Fillna*]

One of the protagonists of Forever Kingdom/Evergrace 2, alongside Darius and Ruyan. She's actually not in this novel, but...

Even if the world forgets, I will never let go of your smile. I miss you, Fae.

